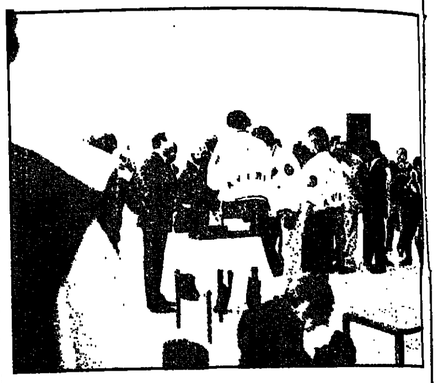
'Sailing' high through the skies

His Majesty King Hussein at the ceremony

Judith of the 'Winged Quest' team



King Hussein distributes prizes

By Frida Mdanat
Special to The Star

JORDAN HAD its share in the biggest event ever to take place in the world, when the Paris-Peking-Paris Air Rally team made a stopover in Amman.

The light aircraft with competitors from Italy, Belgium, United States, Switzerland and France started off from Paris on the 28 February stopping over on their outward journey in Abu Dhabi and Dhaka. The home bound journey saw stops at Hong Kong, Singapore, Bombay and Amman, before flying off to Rome and finally to Paris where they are expected to land by 29 March.

Mr Bernard Lamy, director of the race, gave a press conference at Holiday Inn last Sunday to announce the arrival of the aircraft; the first of which arrived on Saturday night and the last, the following morning. He thanked all the pilots for their professional performance and expressed his hope to reach Paris with the same number of crew that left the city on 28 February and to complete the 35,000 kilometres race — almost a circumnavigation of the world.

Briefing the press on the Bombay- Amman leg, he brought to light, some of the hazards the pilots encountered because of the strong winds over Muscat. Some of the lighter aircraft, he revealed, had to fly as low as nine metres over water in order to reduce the effect of the excessive head winds facing them. Evaluation of the winning aircraft, he noted, takes into consideration a number of factors: engine power, speed, distance, take off and landing times and a long calculation process quite different from those used in car-races.

Dr Gaith Phar'on, one of the four sponsors of the race, expressed his pleasure at being in Jordan and said that because of Arab sponsorship, the race had to stop in an Arab country.

Sponsoring the race in addition to Dr Phar'on are the Swiss Branch of the Pillar Group, Internike of the Italian Company Nikols, and Il Messaero, one of the leading Italian Daily newspapers.

Taking the first place in the Bombay-Amman leg was 'Mammouth Microjet', a single engine Cessna 421 plane piloted by Raymond Michel and Reme Crasset, who covered the 2260 nautical miles in 17 hours 56 minutes at an average speed of 136.1 knots which is 95.5 per cent of the reference speed of the airdraft. Second was Italian wings, a twin engine Cessna 310 flown by Claudio Soro and Mauro Mason who made it in 13 hours 35 minutes at an average speed of 166.4 kts with 92.5 per cent of the aircraft's reference speed.

The Mammoth-Microjet, though the oldest and slowest of the competing aircraft, has scored a previous victory in the race by placing first on the outward journey with a registration of more than 16 hours of endurance.

To honour the winners, Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor attended an air show put up by the Jordanian Royal Falcons at the military airport last Monday. King Hussein later on presented awards to the first three winners. Prizes were also given for the best in endurance, performance and courage.

Royal Falcons in spectacular air loops

The breathtaking acrobatic display involved three pilots of Royal Falcons — Majed Al-Kayed, Adnan Takrouri. The were led by Jalal Kattab who performed a number of daring manoeuvres to the pleasure of the excited, applauding audience. Those included half-crops, full crops, hammerhead turns and the slow roll, exclusive to the Royal Falcons. The special Hashemite manoeuvre, which involves a straight climb head up by the leader while the other two criss-cross in front of the field centre was also displayed.

A Royal Jordanian folklore group then performed song, dances, music and lyrics in their spectacular traditional dress depicting Jordanian culture.

The ceremony, the only one to be given to the participating crews on their stops, was also attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, members of the Royal family, Prince Ra'ad Bin Zaid, Cabinet members, Ambassadors of the participating countries and Royal Jordanian officials.

In a speech by Mr Lamy, the race director, he expressed the desire to witness the participation of a Jordanian crew in the next Rally scheduled for 1989.

Competitors in the race included a number of non-professional pilots, who take aviation as a hobby. They include a doctor, attorney, psychiatrist, company managers, surgeons and others. Some have participated in several previous air-races.

Patrick Sailez, 48, is a surgeon and aviation has always played an important part in his life. He served for 10 months during the 1984 resuce mission in Africa as a 'flying doctor'. He says, "I couldn't resist the idea of participating in this event; it is once in a life time chance to be one of the competitors in what is considered the biggest event in the world."

Judith Land-Bell, one of three women participants, says it was a great experience passing over 19 countries and meeting people from different nationalities and traditions. She was especially pleased with the warm welcome accorded the group in Jordan. 'There are many stories to narrate about all that happened during the race. I cannot wait until I get back to the United States and write them down,' she added.

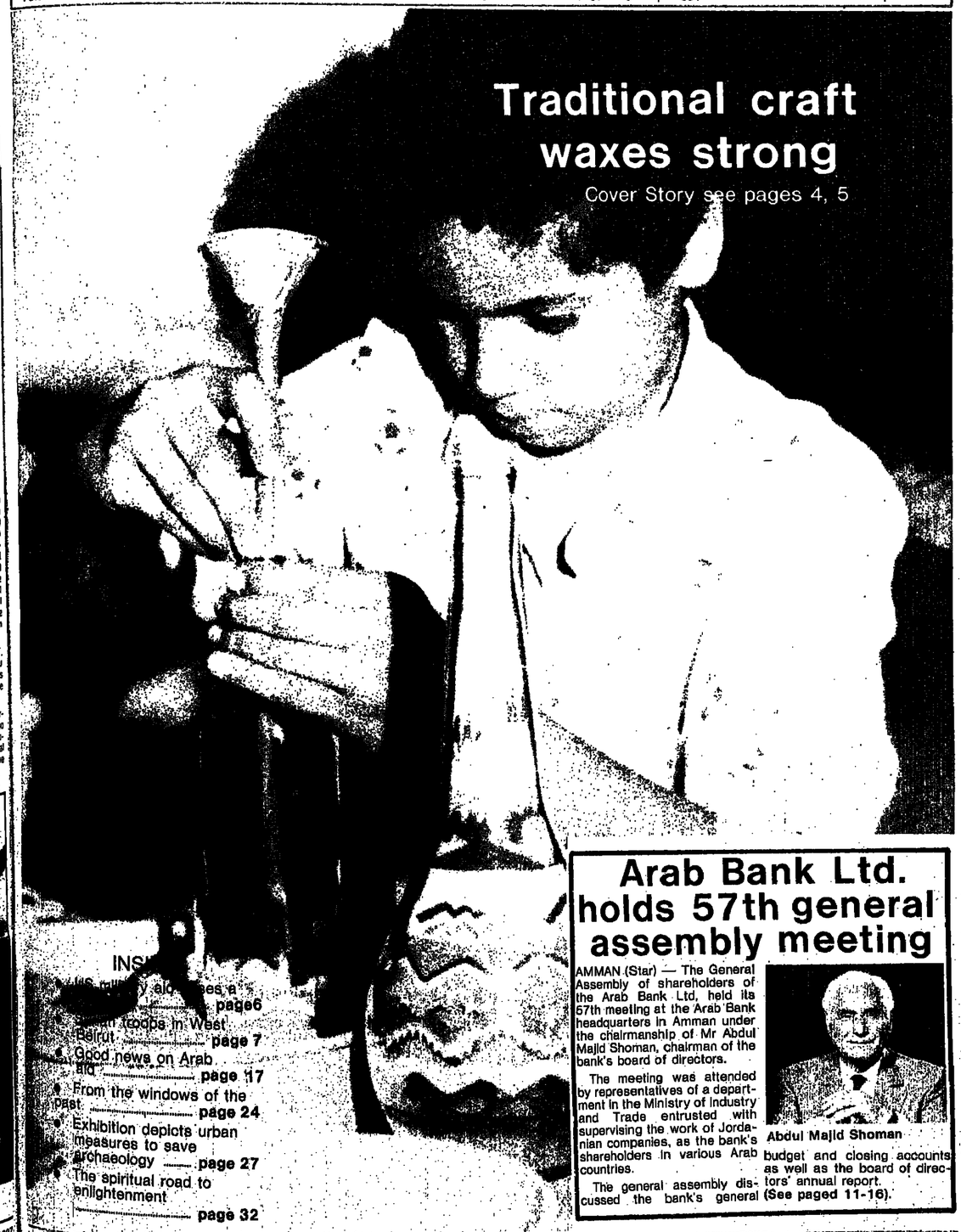
Judith is flying 'Winged Quest', a single engine Cessna, with her husband. They are both attorneys and have always been passionate about flying.

The French Ambassador to Jordan Mr Patrick Leclerq, also presented a trophy to Mrs Claudine, a French pilot, for her special performance and ability in the rally.

"Spirit of Brussels" crew testing skills

Crew for Kouros: next rally could include Jordanians

weekly
The Jerusalem Star
Political, Economic & Social Review
Volume 5 Number 33 «جروسالم ستار» اسبوعية سياسية، تصدر عن الشركة الاردنية للصحافة والنشر «الدستور» Amman 2 — 8 April 1987



Traditional craft waxes strong

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Arab Bank Ltd. holds 57th general assembly meeting

AMMAN (Star) — The General Assembly of shareholders of the Arab Bank Ltd, held its 57th meeting at the Arab Bank headquarters in Amman under the chairmanship of Mr Abdul Majid Shoman, chairman of the bank's board of directors.

Abdul Majid Shoman

The meeting was attended by representatives of a department in the Ministry of Industry and Trade entrusted with supervising the work of Jordanian companies, as the bank's shareholders in various Arab countries.

The general assembly discussed the bank's general budget and closing accounts as well as the board of directors' annual report.

(See paged 11-16).

Price: Jordan 150 fils Saudi Arabia & Qatar 3 riyals UAE 3 dirhams Kuwait & Bahrain 250 fils Syria & Lebanon 3 pounds

Rifai to discuss major issues in US

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai

AMMAN (Star) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Foreign Minister *Taher Al Masri's scheduled visit to* the United States next week has certainly attracted much attention in Washington. Apart from discussing a host of important and sensitive issues, the visit would also involve talks about His Majesty King Hussein's impending spring visit to America.

As a White House deputy spokeswoman put it: "We look forward to discussing with Prime Minister Rifai, a number of important regional and bilateral issues." However, she emphasized that 'the prime minister's visit was another opportunity to exchange views with our 'close friends' and 'not a substitute' for a visit to Washington by King Hussein.

Jordan and Egypt, the two key states interested in restating a Middle East peace process, have openly stated, "they no longer trust US diplomatic initiatives in the region."In an interview with the Christian Science Monitor, Prime Minister Rifai stated "King Hussein will go to Washington if the US makes new proposals for convening an international peace conference. Israel and the US are reluctant to hold such a conference, which the Arabs see as the only forum for an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict." He dismissed out of hand, American assurances that the option of a peace conference is being explored with interest by an administration convinced it needs a new Middle East policy.

'Jordan', Mr Rifai said, 'needs a US commitment to the principle of calling such a meeting before it can believe the US administration's sincerity about pursuing a Middle East peace.'

Although both sides, are hesitating in coming out clearly on discussions on this issue, the international peace conference on the Middle East is likely to feature prominently in the prime minister's talks in Washington. Jordan, Syria, Egypt, together with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) want an international conference comprised of the parties to the conflicts and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. This stand is at variance with the American one. On the other hand, the US wants the conference to involve only states having diplomatic relations with Israel.

It is believed that Jordan is asking for clear American support on the peace conference; US funding for a development programme with West Bank and Gaza Strip; renewed American effort to choke off arms sales from around the world to Iran and a new international diplomatic effort to end the Iran-Iraq war.

The Reagan administration in desire to regain the lost prestige in the Arab World appears to be shifting towards Iraq in the Gulf war. The White House is therefore dispatching to Baghdad, Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead as part of an overall plan for *"reassuring Arab countries that* the US is committed to protecting their security despite the concerned efforts to sell arms to Iran."

Reports from the White House indicate that talks with Mr Rifai, will involve other topics. But the US 'does not anticipate any announcements about any weapons sales during the trip. The question of additional American assistance to Jordan is before the Congress and the situation is likely to be discussed. The United States, however, supports Jordan's West Bank development efforts, and has so far provided $12 million during the 1986-87 fiscal year."

PSD plans for upgrading schemes

By Wafa Abdel Hamid
Special to The Star

'PLANS ARE underway to set up special security centres aimed at upgrading the co-operation between the Public Security Department (PSD) and the public and also to provide all PSD services to the Kingdom's citizens', PSD Director General, Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali said last Monday.

Two such centres have already been set up in Wadi Seer and Mohajeereen areas and seven others will be completed during the year. In addition, the PSD has plans to introduce 36 mobile police stations which will be ready in 18 months time.

The director-general who was speaking to local and foreign journalists at the 'Monday Press Circle 'organized by Dr Musa Al Keilani, Director-General of the Press and Publications Department, said that the PSD has requested JD 10 million to build new security centres in the Kingdom and to upgrade existing police stations.

Lt.-Gen. Majali said that the PSD has finalized plans to purchase a $60 million highly computerized system to upgrade and completely change the departments documentation system. The installation of the equipment will be completed in three years. This system in Jordan will be the first of its kind in the Arab World.

Replying to questions, Lt.Gen. Majali said that there are committees presently studying the possibility of introducing legislations to strengthen co-operation between the police and the public and to build trust in the police. He added that a special court is being set up to handle cases dealing with bad checks.

He categorically denied the claims which suggested that the rate of crime is on the increase due to unemployment and said that the degree of increase which is absolutely reasonable, is seven per cent annually. He added that there are many foreigners in the country and the crimes committed by non-Jordanians in the Kingdom is 25 per cent more than those by the citizens.

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XEROX IN JORDAN
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AMMAN — One of the world's top ranked campanies, **Xerox Corporation** — the leading name in photo-copying and office systems — which introduced the world's first plain paper copier more than twenty five years ago, has just been launched in Jordan by **Sukhtian & Yahya Electronics Company.** The launch was attended by **His Excellency, The Minister Of Communications, Mr. Muhyee Al Deen Al Husseini,** accompanied by a large number of senior officials from both Public and Private Sectors as well as the Diplomatic Circle.

The guests were received by the **General Manager Mr. Fayez El-Yahya, The President of Xerox Middle East and North Africa Operations Mr. Robert E. Trimper** praised in his opening speech, "The remarkable leadership of **His Majesty King Hussein** and the stable political and economic progress achieved by his government in Jordan."

The guests were very impressed with both the high quality and large range of Xerox equipment on display, including photo-copiers, facsimile machines, electronic typewriters and the new plain paper engineering drawing copier.

The Xerox process (Xerography) inspired the world copier industry which is currently estimated at being worth over $27 billions, and it would be hard to imagine an office without a photo-copier, such was the effect of Xerox's reputation for excellence, reliability, productivity and customer satisfaction continues. Now, Xerox is set to bring that same reputation to the Jordanian market-place, by introducing state-of-the-art equipment supported by highly trained service personnel. Xerox is one of the few companies that can quote on an actual cost-per-copy basis to give customers greater budgetting control over their expenditure.

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The Xerox office and showroom are located at the Sukhtian & Yahaya Electronics Company, Gardens Street, P.O. Box 925301 — Amman. Tel. 605473.

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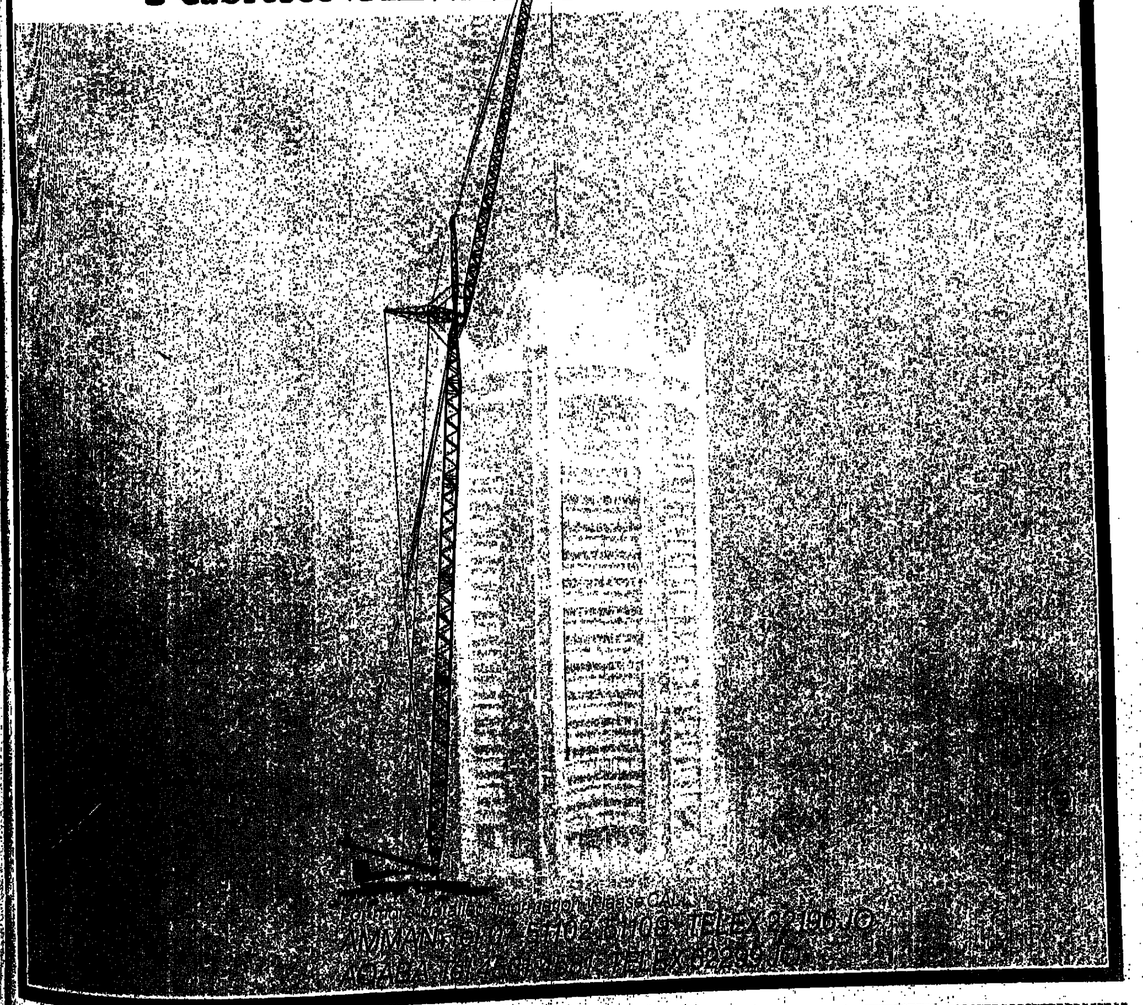


Keeping the art of embroidery alive

Photos and stories
By Venita Maudsley
Special to The Star

ONE OF the most beautiful crafts being practised in the Middle East is the very intricately-worked Palestinian embroidery. The traditional designs are composed of geometrical shapes worked into many colours. Each village has its own special design and the expert can tell its origin at a glance, whether it be from Ramallah, Hebron or Gaza.

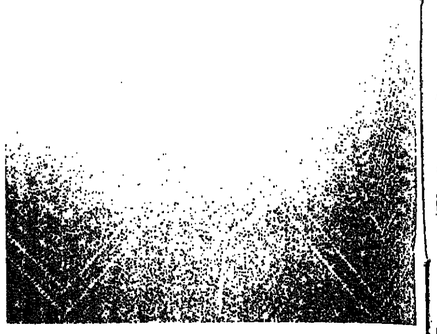
Because the work is so time-consuming, the cost of the embroidered items has always been rather high, and in some shops, prohibitively so.

About four years ago, Mariam Isa Murad Mahani-Um Mahmoud got the idea of bringing the lovely embroidered items within the range of many more people. At the time, she was a mathematics lecturer at the Unrwa Colleges in Wadi Seer and Naur, where there was then a sewing and embroidery section at the college. She had the opportunity of seeing many items for sale at various school bazaars around Amman, and the prices always seemed expensive.

When she left her post at the college, Um Mahmoud contacted many ladies who could embroider and commissioned them to produce items which she would then sell for them. Now at any one time, there are between 30 and 50 ladies employed, in their own homes, in the production of a wide variety of embroidered items.

Um Mahmoud came here from Gaza in 1967. She grew up in an area where these masterpieces of patience and skill were produced by ladies for use by their own families. Nowadays, she says, the items are produced only for selling. In her home, near the Seventh Circle, Amman, she has set aside a room which is a treasure-house of oriental crafts — the most beautifully embroidered dresses, shawls and cushions. They are all worked in traditional Palestinian designs. The colours vary according to the choice of the customer and Um Mahmoud has herself designed some very interesting colour schemes, especially for the dresses.

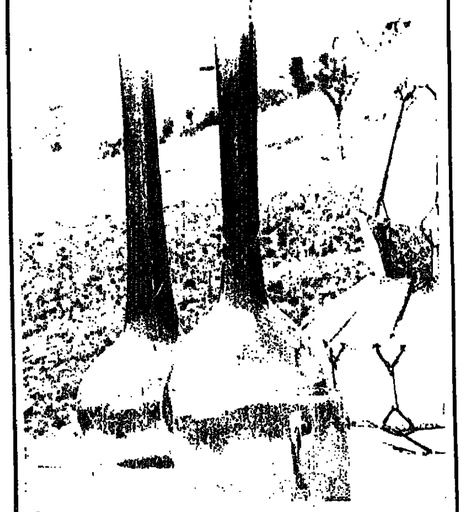
Queen Noor wearing a lovely Palestinian dress



Design from Bethlehem and Ramallah

The prices of the items are very reasonable, bearing in mind the care, skill and time that must go into their production. At the moment, they can be purchased only from Um Mahmoud or at the Marriott Hotel. Prospective customers may go and see them at Um Mahmoud's home; Telephone 811371, or write to P.O. Box 6549, Amman

Products from recycled glass



Glasses are blown in the traditional manner

FIVE YEARS ago, Naif Al Natche and his two brothers came from Hebron and set up a glass workshop just outside the town of Na'ur, on the Jerusalem Road. At first, they made the glass from sand, then they had the idea of recycling glass. Now they make use of used bottles and all kinds of broken glass. They melt it down in a kiln, add powder oxides for colour and blow it in the traditional manner. Most of this work takes place on Fridays so that the many people who pass to and from the Dead Sea may call in and watch. Most of the items can be purchased at various souvenir shops in Amman, or at the workshop; they include ornaments, vases, lampshades, ashtrays, etc, and are reasonably priced.

The very familiar Hebron pottery is also sold at the workshop. This is produced in Hebron by the same family where they have three factories in production.

Traditional crafts in Madaba

BEDIA PETER Zawaideh, who is now aged 70 years, has been spinning wool and making clothes and carpets from it since her childhood. She learned the craft from her mother when she was a child in Madaba. In those days, most of the women knew how to spin, but nowadays, it is a dying craft. This is partly due to the fact that it is very time-consuming.

Bedia gets the wool straight from the sheep. She teases and spins it, this first stage can take up to two days to produce a one kilo ball of wool — unless she works at it full-time, in which case, she can produce two kilos a day. After this, the wool has to be twisted by hand and wound into another ball. Then it is dyed and dried and is ready for the loom.

Mrs Zaweideh has made many carpets in her lifetime. She only works with pure wool because it is longer-lasting. To prove their durability, there are carpets on the floor of her family house that she made over 40 years ago and they are still in excellent condition and have kept their colours extremely well. Bedia is also adept at embroidery.

It seems that Art and Craft is very much part of the Zawaideh family. Bedia's two little granddaughters are already producing fine pieces of embroidery. Raghda and Vera II Zawaideh have been taught mainly by their mother Chistina, who is from Czechoslovakia, and has fitted very well into this productive family as she spends every spare moment sewing and creating lovely tapestries and woven pictures.

Spinning and teasing wool

Getting familiar at an early age

Imad and Nafez — started the trade from Lebanon

Bamboo, glorious bamboo

By Frida Mdanat
Special to The Star

BAMBOO BELONGS to the large group of giant, fast growing tree-like grasses, usually with woody stems. There are more than 700 recognized species growing chiefly in tropical or subtropical Asia, Africa and in North America. Some bamboos grow to a great height while others may reach about 36 metres. Jointed underground stems, or rhizomes produce numerous hollow stems called culms, which sometimes grow more than (0.3 metre) a day.

Bamboo is widely used in the world to produce many items, but is of great value to the people of southern Asia and the East Indies. The seeds and young shoots are used for food and the leaves make excellent fodder for livestock. However, it is the jointed stems, which are used in varying sizes for ropes, furniture, paper, household utensils and many other products.

Bamboo comes in three shapes, says Imad, owner of a cane weaving shop at the 8th Circle: the thick brown canes are used for the frames of furniture; the thinner reeds for filling the gaps between the canes and the thin bamboo which comes in the form of ropes are for tying the corners and the main parts together.

To start on any form of weaving, thick canes are bent according to the desired shapes on fire and the thinner reeds are made more flexible by rinsing them in water for a couple of hours. The bamboo ropes are only left in water for a few minutes.

Furniture items are designed and are held together with pins which are then covered with a few layers of bamboo ropes. This hides the pins and produces a satisfying decorative look.

The supporting reeds are then connected with the thick canes and tied by the ends with bamboo ropes. The item can be weaved with intricate horizontal and vertical ropes or left as it, according to customer's wish.

Abu Ghazi, who works at the shop owned by Imad and his brother Nafez, have been working in this trade all his life. He started weaving bamboo fruit baskets in Palestine when he was 15 years old. He enjoys his profession and claims that he is considered the master of weaving.

Imad and Nafez have been working on bamboo furniture for 10 years. They underwent apprenticeship in Lebanon for five years before opening their shop in Amman.

One of the numerous problems confronting the trade is the scarcity of experienced workmanship. "You don't find many workers, and all those who do work in the trade are owners of their shops."

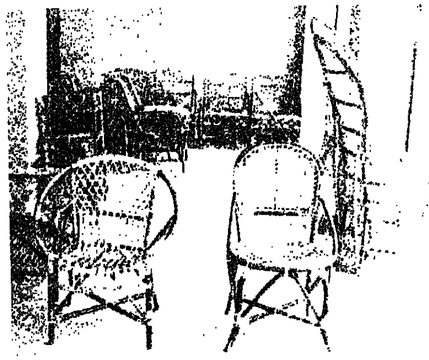
Imad adds that weaving of furniture items has of late become a poor trade and this is due to the hike in prices at the original source for the raw material — Singapore, which is the main source for Jordanian import.

"We use to buy a bunch of bamboo sticks for JD 16 and now it costs us JD 32. We can't raise our prices because there are few potential buyers. Moreover, the prices of furniture has gone down considerably during the past couple of years,' says Imad.

He adds that there is a general tendency by people to believe that bamboo furniture is not very durable. "We give our customers a two-year guarantee when they purchased items and assure them that it can last as long as 10 years with the possibility of repairing any damage that occurs within this period," says Imad.

The bamboo trade rises to its peak during the summer season when such items are used for verandas, and gardens, contends Imad, looking forward to the summer which might perhaps bring in a more profitable season.

Prices for raw materials have gone up



Trade soars in the summer season

Magic from the looms

By Venita Maudsley
Special to The Star

DARAAR MOHAMMAD II Haok has been making carpets in Madaba for over 20 years: He took over the business from his father and grandfather. One of the looms he uses now was built in 1923, and is used only for making pure wool carpets. He has another more modern loom for producing carpets from synthetic materials This one is also moveable; the former being firmly fixed.

Daraar — 20 years of experience

Photo by Venita Maudsley

His tiny workship is packed to capacity with multicoloured balls of wool hanging from the ceiling, attached to the looms and many of the finished carpets hanging on the wall or piled high on the floor. He designs his own carpets, most of which have a traditional flavour. He is however very versatile and can produce designs and colours to suit the needs of his clients.

The process of making carpets is a very slow one. Daraar can produce only two, four-metre carpets per week; this he says, will no longer provide enough income to support a family, so it seems that the business will not carry on to the next generation. This is indeed a loss to the artistic life of the country. Surely, the time has come for government subsidies to be paid to such craftsmen and artists to ensure the continuation of their art.

Most of Daraar's customers are tourists, but he also sells items at Bazaars in Amman. He is one of the two remaining carpet-makers in Madaba who are actually from Madaba. In the town, there are also a few workshops owned and worked by Egyptians.

The prices of the carpets are JD 30 for four metres of synthetic fibre and JD 20 for one metre of pure wool. His shop is open every day and he is always pleased to welcome new customers.

Government should subsidize craftsmen

photo by Venita Maudsley

US military aid poses a dilemma

By Dennis Chaplin and Stephanie Willand
Special to The Star

LONDON — Opposition is growing in Pakistan to the country's increasing dependence on the United States for military aid.

President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq's government also is concerned that circumstances may be pushing non-aligned Pakistan toward the Western camp as a de facto ally of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The dilemma for Zia is that he needs military aid to counter hostile neighbours — and the United States has been happy to provide it, apparently as part of its plan to acquire strategic bases in Asia.

When the Reagan administration came to power in 1981, its Strategic Guidance plan emphasized a need to "deploy US forces on a global scale" following the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

It saw Pakistan as a pivotal factor in South Asian and Gulf security considerations.

For Pakistan itself, the Afghan civil war and Soviet intervention have drawn the country deeply into the US net for military credits. Analysts say that Pakistan would prefer to have limited such strong outside links to China, which has been a reliable and undemanding supporter for more than two decades. An urgent need for modern military equipment such as American F-16 fighter planes and airborne early warning aircraft, however, has forced Islamabad to lean more heavily on the United States.

Pakistan is understood to have about a dozen F-16s, but wants 40. The country now is the second biggest recipient of US military aid after Israel. The current five-year package stands at $3.6 billion, underscoring Washington's deepening interest in a foothold in Pakistan. With more equipment needed, however, Pakistan is seeking an increase to $6.5 billion — a request the US Congress may reject following reports this month that Pakistan has developed an atomic bomb.

"Pakistan has neither the manpower nor other resources to defend the region against Soviet expansionism and Indian chauvinism," said Brian Cloughly, an analyst for the authoritative 'Jane's Defence Weekly.' He sees "no alternative" to intensified US and Chinese efforts to pump more military protein into Pakistan.

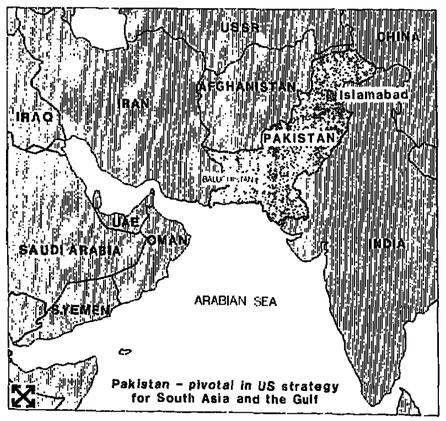
In September 1979, shortly before Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan, Soviet spokesman Ivan Lavrov accused Pakistan of aiding anti-government guerrillas — a charge consistently denied in Islamabad. Lavrov warned of "dangerous consequences" for Pakistan, and said the Soviet Union might see fit "to replace that outdated and archaic regime."

Another leading British defence strategist, former NATO commander-in-chief General Sir Walter Walker, said recently that while Zia "was assailed only a few years ago as a ruthless dictator, he is suddenly emerging as the plucky and courageous man who could keep the Russians at bay in Asia and away from the Gulf." From Afghanistan, Walker said, the Soviet Union could launch "a surprise lightning attack in massive strength against Iran or Pakistan at extremely short notice."

Consequently, he believes Pakistan should be given "massive military aid in the form of modern weapons." He also recommends a strong American and Chinese presence in Pakistan as a deterrent, since "China has been taking the struggle in Afghanistan and the overt threat to Pakistan much more seriously than the West."

ZIA UL HAQ

Walker said that simply by escalating hot pursuit operations against Afghan guerrillas, the Soviets could strike deep into Pakistan and push through to the mouth of the Gulf. High Pakistanis agree there is a danger of the Soviet Union backing separatists in Baluchistan, the "soft underbelly" of Pakistan, which would provide Moscow with direct access to the Strait of Hormuz and the oilfields of the Gulf.



Pakistan – pivotal in US strategy for South Asia and the Gulf

According to the British defence publication Warplane, "Soviet penetration into Pakistan is widespread, as both air and ground forces adopt hot pursuit tactics to follow bands of rebels across the loosely defined border into the areas of Pakistan from which they operate." Also documented have been "devastating" air strikes against Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan. Last January, a Pakistan F-16 for the first time shot down an Afghan fighter near Parachinar, and in February Afghan fighter jets struck at targets in the Domandai and Drosh areas.

Pakistan has had to admit reluctantly it needs the US crutch — at least pending a satisfactory outcome of the Afghanistan peace talks in Geneva, the seventh session of which wound up inconclusively earlier this month. Pakistan spends less per soldier ($4,445) than does Afghanistan ($6,383) and has a massive area of 804,000 sq km to police. It also has surrounding it three of the largest air forces in the world — "two of which are unfriendly," observed a defence spokesman at the Pakistani embassy in London.

Although embassy staff see fewer strings attached to Chinese military aid, "the urgency of the present situation makes it difficult to escape dependence on the United States." British defence observers say that despite Pakistan's concern at the dilemma, circumstances already have led Islamabad to permit a substantial US military presence on its soil. Of obvious interest to the US military are monitoring of Soviet weapons, troop and tactics in Afghanistan, and inspection of Soviet weaponry brought out by rebels.

Washington also is suspected of pushing for equipment prepositioning deals, similar to those it has with Thailand as part of the Rapid Deployment Force mission in Asia. The Soviet Union has denounced US "strategic plans" in Pakistan, claiming Washington "is creating a convenient military infrastructure for the Pentagon in Southern Asia — in the event that American 'vital interests' suddenly require a lengthy and broad presence or even combat operations by US troops."

According to British defence analysts, rumours abound that Pakistani ports have been fitted out for the US navy, although Pakistan defence officials in the West say the ports "are not even good enough for the Pakistani navy." Unconfirmed reports in the West also suggest construction work has started on a network of airfields, military bases, roads, radar sites, command headquarters and communications facilities linked with the major Rapid Development Force base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean.

With Geneva "proximity talks" expected to resume in about two months, and with sensitive contacts also being made with both Moscow and Kabul, Pakistan declines to comment on such reports. While the Soviet Union and Afghanistan appear to be in conciliatory mood, Zia "is correct in mixing caution with courtesy in the talks," according to British defence analyst Major Rod McClure.

For Pakistan, the key question is the timetable for a pullout of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan. If the Afghan problem could be resolved, a Pakistani spokesman in London said, this would assist in the quest for greater independence from the United States.

Our intellectuals in the West

A VERY important and informative seminar was recently sponsored and published by Al-Azmina, an Arabic bi-monthly cultural magazine. The seminar, dealing with the issue of Arab intellectuals abroad, brought together a number of expatriate Arab writers and University professors living in the West. The main focus of the seminar was the impact living had in the West upon these Arab intellectuals, and the extent to which they have been able to maintain links with their homeland.

The whole issue of Arab 'brains' outside the Arab world is of importance nowadays because there are growing voices in the Arab world now that call for the unconditional return of these intellectuals if they are indeed sincere about boosting the development efforts in the Arab world. There are some people who fail to see any tangible benefit for the permanent dislocation of these 'brains' who, as the argument goes, are badly needed to offer their services to their countries first and foremost.

It is also extremely difficult to distinguish between private and public reasons in this debate. Arab expatriates who felt the need to leave their countries in the early years of this century must have done so for purely personal reasons, but they are looked upon now as a group who must contribute to the overall progress and development of their nation.

To tackle this point one has to implicate the public versus the private reasons for leaving one's homeland. Dr Halim Barakat, Professor of Sociology, Georgetown University, says that it is extremely difficult to distinguish between the two reasons. Even before leaving Lebanon, his home country, Dr Barakat says that most of his schooling was conducted in Western or pro-Western academic institutions.

Dr Barakat's assertion that his alienation from his cultural background took place long before even leaving Lebanon prompts us to ask whether all Arab intellectuals abroad belong to this same class of Arab citizens who could afford to be educated at exclusive pro-Western schools in the first place.

The participants in the seminar have all agreed that there are more positive or negative sides to their permanent stay outside the Arab world. Dr Hisham Sharabi, Professor of the History of Cultures, Georgetown University, said that Arab intellectuals living abroad have more freedom to talk about the various issues and problems of the Arab world while they are living away from their homeland.

There is no denying that the degree of freedom available in the Arab world right now leaves a lot to be desired. And we should not jump to the conclusion and say we are only talking about freedom from official restrictions, but we are actually talking about freedom in its most basic sense. We must address the question of the absence of freedom on the individual level as well. Intolerance of the views of others characterizes our attitudes, and we are willing to go to any length arguing about the importance of the freedom of speech, but we do not tolerate the voice and ideas of others when they run counter to our own.

By distancing themselves from the day-to-day issues and problems of the Arab world, Arab expatriate intellectuals can indeed offer a more comprehensive view of the nature, causes and solutions for these problems. They can provide us with an informative in-put from their detached angle without getting bogged-down in the daily events and occurrences in their homelands.

Another advantage that can be reaped from the prolonged stay of Arab expatriate intellectuals abroad is that they begin to see in their handling of Arab issues a unified vision of the whole Arab world, and not of a specific country only. On the other hand, Arab intellectuals living inside the Arab world cannot help but focus their attention on the immediate problems of the countries in which they live.

The Arab intellectuals participating in the seminar agreed that the freedom the West offers is the most important advantage for their research and independent study of their respective academic interests. One of them made it clear that in monetary terms he would be much better off teaching at an Arab university, but he would rather be free in carrying out his research than be rich.

I will grant the participants in the seminar that, relatively speaking, the West offers a wider range of public and private freedom, but we say this with some degree of reservation because the intellectual's freedom to voice their concern about certain political developments in the Arab world is called into question. Is it not true that prejudice against the Arabs is widespread in the West? Is it not true that the Zionist lobbies in the West and the United States in particular are intimidating many Arabs into silence about the issues that really concern their nation? What freedom do those expatriate intellectuals have in getting together to speak against Israeli practices against their compatriots back home?

The seminar conducted by Al-Azmina bi-monthly on Arab expatriate intellectuals raises a lot of important and provocative points. We may not agree on everything that has been raised by the participants, but bringing these points to the limelight is indeed a very healthy development.

Syrian troops in West Beirut

Militias are driven out but a political solution remains indiscernable

By Mounir B. Abboud
Star Lebanon Correspondent

BEIRUT: Within few weeks of their deployment in Muslim West Beirut on 22 February, some seven thousand and five hundred Syrian troops drove militiamen out, promising to render the city free of gunmen.

Fighters of the Shi'ite Amal Movement and mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party of Walid Jumblatt which had fought devastating street gunbattles, pulled their men out of the city and handed their offices and headquarters over to the Syrians.

As Syrian military source said all 85 militia offices had been closed. As many as 40 gunmen, including 25 from Hizbullah (God's Party) the pro-Iranian Fundamentalist Party, were killed and 15 arrested for violating security regulations. The success of this counteraction gave rise to hope for finding a political solution to the overall inter-Lebanese conflict, and Christian objections to the Syrian military intervention were discussed at a meeting held recently in Damascus by the five Muslim figures who have appealed to President Assad of Syria to rush the troops to West Beirut.

It is recalled that Syrian President Hafez Assad agreed to intervene on Friday night (20 February). His agreement was announced in a statement issued in Damascus during the early hours of Saturday, 21 February, by five Muslim officials after they had been received by President Assad.

The five were: Parliament Speaker Hussein Al Husseini, Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Education Minister Dr Selim Al Hoss, Justice Minister and South Lebanon Affairs Minister Nabih Berri and Public Works and Tourism Minister Walid Jumblat.

Between four and seven thousand Syrian troops, backed by tanks and armoured cars, in Eastern Lebanon rolled into Beirut on 21 February to be deployed under a 9-point plan agreed by the Lebanese leaders during talks in the Syrian capital.

The points were:

1 An immediate cease fire and the withdrawal of gunmen from the streets;
2 To ask Syria to provide military assistance in order to "impose" security, stability and calm in Beirut;
3 The formation of a security force comprising Lebanese regular forces and the Syrian military force to bring the situation back to normal in the city and enable state institutions to resume their functions; a command for the joint force is to be formed under a decision by the Prime Minister in consultation with the Ministers of Interior and Defence.
4. Disbanding all armed militias in West Beirut, and closing down their offices and centres, as well as closing down all offices and centres of political parties and organizations.
5. No fire arms are to be allowed in West Beirut, arms in violation will be confiscated and violaters will be referred to martial courts;
6. The security force will take charge of guard duty at government offices and public institutions as well as foreign embassies;
7 The force will also be in charge of all roads leading to West Beirut from the south and the mountains;
8. The security force will provide security at the airport and highway leading to it; and,
9. The command of the security force will be informed of these decisions so it may lay down the necessary practical measures it sees suitable in order to carry them out.

The real reasons for Syrian intervention were still being judged, but here is an analysis:

Beirut daily Al Sharq, known for its pro-Syrian stand, quoted sources close to Lebnese Muslim leaders who requested President Assad to intervene in West Beirut said the Syrian President made it clear his army's main objective will be "to put the fire out and end the carnage in Beirut" and enable the legitimate government to function again. Lebanese government departments had been paralyzed by virtual militia rule in the strife-torn city of Beirut.

Syrian soldiers, from the crack "Special Forces", were reported to have resorted to extreme brutality to teach the unruly gunmen a lesson they would heed.

Hizbullah elements were apparently singled out for a purpose. Twenty four hours after the clash occurred, the Syrian officer in charge of applying the tough security measures, Brigadier General Ghazi Kanaan called on foreign diplomats and nationals to return to West Beirut, promising that Syrian troops will guarantee their safety.

Hizbullah has often been identified with "Islamic Jihad" or the holy war organization and other clandestine factions holding 26 foreigners including eight Americans, hostage.

Other objectives: Restoring peace and quiet in West Beirut is only the immediate goal of Syrian strategy in Lebanon. Deeper reasons are related to the traditional relationship between the two countries and regional concerns. Arab diplomats said the speed with which President Assad rushed his contingents here was designed to prevent possible American intervention in the Lebanese capital and the Bekaa valley in eastern Lebanon.

Traditional relations: Over the years, the Syrians have looked at Lebanon as a 'twin country.' Political groups, advocating the establishment of a "Greater Syria" comprising the two states and other neighbouring countries, thrived. The Arab Baath Socialist Party which rules in Damascus advocates pan-Arab nationalism seeking unity among all the twenty-one member-states making up the Tunis-based Arab League mandate with the declared purpose of ending the civil war which had broken out the year before.

Since that time, the Syrians have clashed with practically all the forces on the ground in Lebanon — the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Christians and now their own Shi'ite and Druze allies.

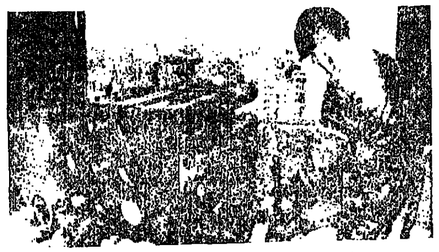
Damascus' paramount objective is to secure a Lebanon that will stand firmly on its side in an Arab world torn apart by fueds and schisms.

The Syrians now say that their own security and that of Lebanon is interlwined, and that all Lebanese energies must be devoted to confronting the Israeli danger.

The Syrian-Christian rift widened a year ago after Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and other Maronite figures rejected a Damascus-brokered pact which, among other things, set out to give Syrian troops a permanent status in Lebanon within a strategy aimed against Israel.

The growing Palestinian guerrilla presence in this country is as much a worry to the Syrians as it is to the Lebanese. Damascus wants to make certain its archi-enemy, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat does not gain an upper hand in the refugee camps in Lebanon against its allies in the guerrilla movement.

When Lebanon thrived economically, it provided a convenient outlet for Syria whose economy is controlled by the government-run public sector. The economic factor has however been downgraded because Lebanon has been going through a depression which has seen the value of the Lebanese pound hit rock bottom, dropping sharply in relation to all foreign exchange including the Syrian pound.



A Syrian soldier of the crack Speical Forces deploys a Soviet-made multi-barreled Stalin organ in Beirut

Beirut 22 February: Syrians enter the capital

Survey on inter-militia clashes

By Mounir B. Abboud
Star Lebanon Correspondent

BEIRUT — At least 250 people were killed in the West Beirut fighting between rival militias in February, 1987, according to a survey carried out by the Popular First Aid Committee and announced here recently. The survey referred to billion of Lebanese pounds in damage and the ordeal of the inhabitants during the street fighting in which all types of weapons were used. Houses and shops were gutted by fire or ransacked and cars were destroyed or stolen.

Appeal is ignored: Imad Akkawi, President of the Committee said that the survey was based on statistics made by hospitals, the International Red Cross Committee, police posts, News Agencies and an investigations by the Committee's and Civil Defence youth in the stricken city.

The report showed that 250 people were killed, including 32 who could not be taken to hospital and 18 wounded who died without receiving first aid during the intensified fighting and the militiamen's disregard to appeal to be allowed to remove the injured. More than 40 corpses remained in the streets until the last day of the fighting, many of them belonging to civilians, for the same reasons.

Hospitals and clinics treated 1,100 wounded while a number of others who were slightly injured were treated at home. Their number could not be determined.

Doctors and medical workers: Among the killed and wounded were a number of doctors and medical assistants. More than 15 clinics and some hospitals suffered damage, and others had a shortage of food and medical supplies. "But for the help of a humanitarian organization, one of the hospitals would have been in a serious position because it had run completely out of food," Akkawi said.

In addition, all hospitals in West Beirut were completely surrounded during the fighting, and a large number of doctors were unable to get to them to take care of their patients.

Many of the patients who had completed their treatment or medical check-ups had to spend several additional days at the hospitals. At the same time, a large number of visitors were stranded in the hospitals and unable to get in touch with their relatives.

Chronic diseases: Some of the patients suffering from chronic diseases and who needed regular treatment, including dialysis, were unable to reach the hospitals.

Some pregant women gave birth without medical assistance at their homes, aided only by older women and primitive methods of child delivery. No major problems were reported in those deliveries, mostly premature because of the stress suffered by the mothers.

A number of Health Centres were raided and their contents plundered. Ninety-three houses were completely gutted by fire, 114 houses partly burned out, 264 houses partly damaged, 377 houses had their windows shattered and 180 houses had their contents completely or partly plundered.

Fifteen houses or shops were completely destroyed by flames because firemen were not able to get to them. Fire brigade posts came under concentrated and continuous shelling which hit water tanks and disrupted the work of fire engines.

Shops and cars: Listing losses to the commercial sector, the survey showed that 165 shops were ransacked, 60 shops gutted by flames, 75 shops partly damaged by fire, 174 shops received direct hits and 200 shops slightly damaged. 250 cars were destryed by fire, 275 cars were damaged and 100 cars stolen. Precious and historic books were among the contents destroyed by fire or plundred from Beirut Arab University. The value of these books was estimated at about $15 million. They included books of the Islamic Education Centre.

The Information Faculty of the Lebanese University suffered damages estimated about $50 million.

The National Social Security Fund was ransacked and the building suffered heavy damage estimated at $15,000 and addition to cash were stolen from its safe.

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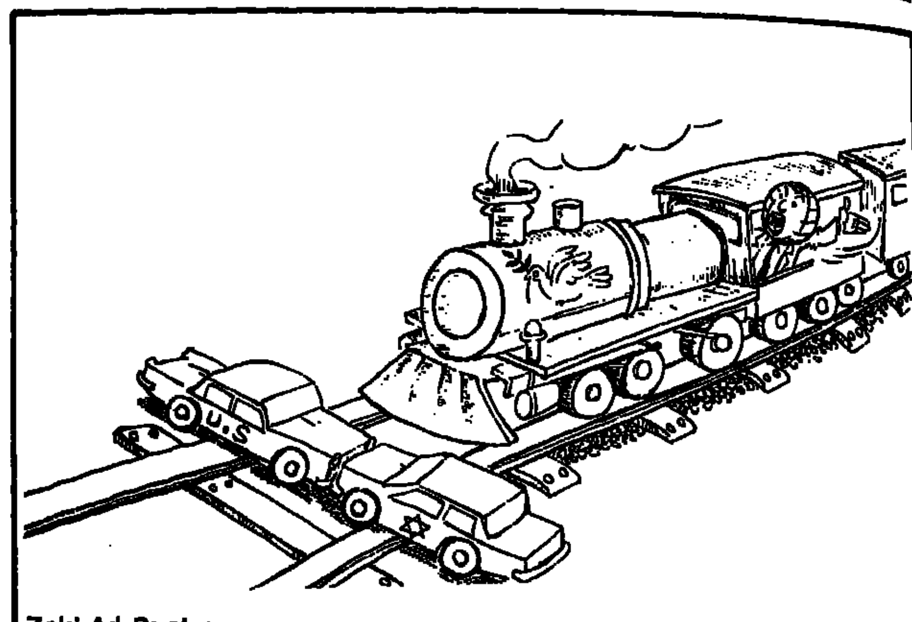


Zaki-Ad Dustour

Changing tunes

THE VISIT next week to the United States by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri is a significant one indeed. American officials must realize that the success or failure of this visit depends heavily on how flexible the US administration is willing to be on vital Middle East issues, the most important of which is the international peace conference proposal.

US credibility in the Arab World has been badly undercut as a consequence of anti-Arab foreign policies by Washington, which culminated in the Irangate affair. In addition, the US has, until now, displayed no willingness to accept or understand the Jordanian perceptions of the UN-sponsored international conference.

The United States must also realize that the Jordanian stance on the international conference also represents Arab position. All parties involved in the dispute are in favour of the Jordanian proposal. Ostensibly, the Labour Party in Israel has also committed itself to the idea through its leader Mr Shimon Peres. Those who reject the international conference or are in favour of the direct negotiations option, are either in the minority — now that EEC countries and all members of the Security Council, except for the United States, have endorsed the peace conference plan — or adamantly against peace.

With such recent developments it will take exceptional diplomatic efforts on Washington's part to justify and explain its insistence on the principle of direct negotiations in isolation of the UN-sponsored conference. But it is not justifications that one is looking for, but rather, honest indications that the US administration is willing to commit itself to the cause of peace in the region and make use of the limited time available before the whole issue is removed to the back-burner as Mr Reagan's term in office approaches its end.

We hope that American officials will realize that Jordan's role as a catalyst for keeping the peace process alive is vital to the survival of all peaceful initiatives in the Middle East. If the declared intentions by the American administration on bringing about a peaceful conclusion to the Middle Eastern crisis are to be believed, then we should assume that Mr Rifai and Mr Masri would hear a new tone of voice in Washington.

Avoiding pitfalls

ALL AND sundry have been watching with keen anticipation, Syrian efforts to restore peace, tranquility and sanity in war-torn Lebanon. Despite, the initial sceptical comments when the Syrians tanks rolled in, the steps and methods adopted so far has proved that with the co-operation of all warring elements in Lebanon, the blood-bath which has gone on for over a decade could gradually subside.

The recent car-bomb blast near the Syrian army headquarters proves that not all those war lords, who have carved out enclaves for themselves, look kindly down on the Syrian presence. A further flare up in hostilities between the Amal militiamen and the Palestinian fighters, holds true the fact that, peace appears to be an elusive element in Lebanon. The Amal has even fanned the flames of hatred and warfare by firing recently on innocuous Palestinian women on a peaceful demonstration march.

The Syrians must have realized by now that they don't enjoy the support of the certain radical elements. In the attempts to enforce order, they had to clash with the Hizbollah fighters which resulted in the death of about 20 men belonging to the Hizbollah. The repercussions were felt as far as Tehran, where the Hizbollah enjoy the full backing of the Iran's Mullahs.

With all these negative outcomes, Damascus has got the meaning of what it takes to police Lebanon. And the big question is what can be done? The Syrians are certainly not in Lebanon to joke. And although they mean well, caution and tack has been fully exercised so that Damascus does not get bogged down in the quagmire of factional fighting. In this view, we ask all the personalities involved in the Lebanese strife to rally round and make the Syrian exercise a big success.

Whatever is the outcome, the idea of the Syrians throwing up their hands in despair and quitting is something to be avoided at all costs. On the other hand, for Damascus to succeed, there is the need for combined efforts of all internal and external factions to lend a helping hand and create an atmosphere for peace to succeed.

How US would fight world war IV

A secret aspect of the US Strategic Defence Initiative, according to military analysts, is to develop a computerized communication system enabling it to fight another nuclear war long after most of the world already has been devastated.

By Ian Markham-Smith

LOS ANGELES — As part of its Strategic Defence Initiative ("Star Wars") project, the United States is secretly gearing up to fight the ultimate battle by computer long after the world has been ravaged by nuclear war.

Since shortly after President Ronald Reagan took office, planners have been working on a strategy that would ensure the United States has the strength to fight and win a six-month nuclear conflict — World War III — and remain powerful enough afterward to strike again.

Now that strategy is being put into place, according to military observers.

Long after the White House and Pentagon are reduced to rubble and much of civilization is destroyed, computers would run a war no human mind could control, orchestrating space satellites and nuclear weapons over a world-wide battlefield. The strategy envisages generals huddled in underground bunkers, aloft in converted Boeing 707s and speeding down deserted interestate highways in lead-lined tractor-trailers.

These nuclear-war command posts would harbour computer terminals linked to space satellites that would help direct nuclear missiles from silos and submarines. The key to the strategy, the Pentagon believes, is a computerized communications network that can command and control the American nuclear forces during and after World War III. The Pentagon calls this network C31 (pronounced "see-cubed-eye"), scientific shorthand for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence.

Part of a $222 billion plan to modernize the nation's nuclear forces, C31 would become America's central nervous system for nuclear war, the brain that controls their brawn of intercontinental missiles, bombers and submarines.

It all began to take effect when an Atlas-Centaur rocket blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, three months ago, military analysts say. The actual launch went virtually unnoticed, but it carried the first space test of Milstar, the code name for the satellite system which is the centerpiece of the $40 billion preparation plan for World War IV. Major components of the nuclear C31 system, such as Milstar, have been hidden from Congress and the American public in the Pentagon's black budget which funds classified projects.

Milstar is just one of several parts of the scheme shrouded in secrecy. However, US military analysts have pieced it together. They say the plan is for Milstar, a constellation of eight satellites strategically placed in orbit 112,000km above Earth, to receive and relay commands to launch nuclear weapons.

Milstar would be the global communications switchboard, connecting all the command stations during and after War III receiving and relaying launch orders for nuclear weapons. It is known as "connectivity," a word every ambitious Pentagon official now is using as everyday jargon.

There would be satellite sensors to guide nuclear missiles in flight, track their progress and report back on the damage inflicted. Meanwhile, tractor-trailers hauling mobile nuclear command posts would be dodgying Soviet attacks on the open road.

There also would be robots that move like animals and men, carrying computerized orders as they roam the radioactive battlefront, and a network of 500 radio stations nationwide that could broadcast orders to nuclear-missile silos and underground bunkers. Ways to protect crucial computers from the blast of nuclear weapons also are included in the project.

Milstar would connect military leaders with the president, provided he escaped Washington in the doomsday plane, a converted Boeing 747 earmarked as a means of evacuation. He could use Milstar to order to nuclear destruction of anything that might be left of Moscow or Vladivostok.

If the president, vice-president and secretary of defence were all killed, the new commander-in-chief would be an Air Force general already aloft somewhere over the Midwest in a modified Boeing 707, one of several Strategic Air Command aircraft code-named Looking Glass. Messages sent through Milstar would use it to co-ordinate nuclear missiles and bombers.

For years, projects like Milstar gathered dust in Pentagon files since they were considered impossibly expensive. While the World War IV scenario may read like Hollywood fantasy, sufficient details have emerged to make it credible, said a British defence analyst.

"A big question, though, is how much of it is bluff designed to fool the Russians," he said. While it is not known whether the Soviets plan a similar computerized battle command system, reports in the West say anti-ballistic missile defences around Moscow currently are being trebled. "The Soviets are certainly aware of the American plan, hence their opposition to the entire Star Wars concept," said the British analyst.

Another question mark over the US project, he said, is that computers can go wrong. "Scientists have long warned the Pentagon that computers are not infallible and that efficiency should not be confused with reliability."

La Markham-Smith, a journalist who has worked in Britain, Canada and Hong Kong, now is a freelance in Los Angeles.

Minutes

Act I

ANOTHER DELEGATION is coming soon. There are arrangements to be made, officials to be notified, hotel rooms to be reserved, press briefings and conferences, sightseeing tours, speeches to be delivered, ...etc. Members of the delegation are veteran politicians, seasoned diplomats, former officials, not to mention their wives, who are keen to understand the tragedies of war and the ravages of dispersion.

Fact-seeking, truth-searching, trouble-shooting, state-trotting, initiative- proposing ... Reports are to be made, resolutions to be drafted, pictures to be taken, testimonies to be documented and all this must be submitted by the delegation to members of the council, who refer it to the chairman, who responds to the secretary-general, who answers to the president, who hands the whole matter back to another committee, which forms a sub-committee, which finally decides to dispatch another delegation to seek facts and tour the region. Public opinion is vital, our image must be maintained and the messages must not be allowed to become distorted.

There are arrangements to be made. Funds must be allocated to bankroll the visits, appointments with important ministers have to be scheduled, national flags must be brought from each country, the Mercedes fleet should be ready to move, the press must be told — publicity is essential — and the last, but not the least, special venues have to be agreed upon before hand by communicating through coded messages.

Joint communiques, mutual agreements, commercial protocols, loans, grants, gifts and more press statements, stressing on fraternal ties, brotherly relations, bilateral federations and others... All in the service of the cause ... the causes. And receptions, cocktail parties, luncheons and dinners,

breakfast meetings and lectures, again to inform and educate. One delegation after the other. They must learn the facts, understand the circumstances and comprehend the developments, decipher their meanings, and make commitments.

Act II

The stage is set. Planes are arriving and leaving. The Mercedes fleet scurries to the hotel. High-ranking delegations must be shown all signs of respect and reverence. Amiable meetings with officials. Both talk about the need for peace, the horrors of war, polarization, balkanization, modernization, stalemates, negotiations, concessions, firm stands, natural rights, 242 & 338, summits, vetoes, Geneva, no-war-no-peace, crisis, credibility and a better world. All of this must be documented for posterity's sake. Papers and more papers, files, maps, cigarette smoke, mineral water, the press and a quick trip to a refugee camp of their choice.

At the refugee camp, some of the wives wept. It was a dusty day. School children were lined up carrying flags in their tiny little hands. The delegates insisted on walking through the muddy alleys. They refused an invitation to lunch with the camp's elders. They were here to learn facts and report to the highest council there is. An old local woman charged in holding a picture of her family. But we managed to keep her away. An educated young man delivered a fiery and moving speech in Arabic. Most of the delegates nodded their heads and then looked at their watches. It was almost lunch time and they had to be going.

On the way, we made a stop at an archaeological site. Lunch was served at the government tourist rest-house. Tours were made, and the wives insisted on riding a camel and having their pictures taken with a baffled Bedouin. Everyone enjoyed this bit of the itinerary immensely.

Act III

More visits. Cement factory, phosphate mines, free zones and agricultural co-operatives were seen by the high-ranking delegation. The wives preferred to take a city sightseeing tour. The delegates appreciated the warm receptions and promised to mention the great industrial strides which the country had taken, in their reports.

Next, the delegates saw more government ministers. Briefings, lectures, seminars, slide-shows and even films. More talk about reasoning, status quo, regional threats, fundamentalism, hostages, oil and arms shipments. Press conference: Pens and pads, microphones and tapes rolling. Promises, change of positions, hopes and more promises. More delegations on their way: High-ranking, fact-finding and nerve-soothing.

The delegation leaves. Many thanks, enjoyed, benefitted, learned, will report to the president, to the council, to the public ... They are whisked off on a private jet. The wives will always remember our country and its heritage. The empty Mercedes fleet leaves. Flags are collected and stored. The purser prepares a financial statement. I prepare a report, which is filed and given serial numbers. More delegations are on their way. No one seems to learn enough or find the facts.

Reagan's news conference reveals ruling capacity

By Dana Adams Schmidt
Star Washington Correspondent

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S news conference on the evening of 19 March, revealed something about his psychology; that is, that he appeared not to be very sure of himself; that he is forgetful even of important events. But one thing was clear, he still exists a soft, gentle charm that wins the hearts of most Americans.

More precisely, there are at least three different reactions to this conference. One view, held by a few shrewd White House watchers, is that he is old, incompetent, and not really qualified to serve as the nation's Chief Executive for two more years. Another view, more general in Washington, is that he did pretty well at his news conference, by showing remarkable talent in reconciling opposing points of view in foreign as well as domestic affairs, and that, with due allowance for his weaknesses, 'we'll do well with him as President for another two years'.

The third view, which is important in this democracy, is that of the Middle West workers and farmers, who are not too concerned with the details, but think he came off at his news conference "just fine," with his smile and his jokes; so folksy and reassuring.

So no one should be surprised that he marched into his news conference with a joke about Senator Alan K. Simpson, Republican of Wyoming, who gave a dressing down to the White House press corps the other day for firing questions at the President during "photo opportunities". "But you know very well," exclaimed the angry Senator, "you're not asking him things so you can get answers. You're asking him things because you know he's off balance and you'd like to stick it in his gazoo."

"Gazoo?" That sent editors to their dictionaries. It turns out that the Senator may have invented a new word. What he presumably meant was "bazoo", a very old English word used in such remarks as "shut your bazoo."

People who start important sessions with jokes probably don't like the prospect. And Mr Reagan gave further evidence thereof by reading a statement about taxes. Generally speaking, he thought government expenses should be reduced and taxes would never be raised by Reagan. Good old Reagan.

But for the 167 correspondents who, along with 85 TV cameramen, crowded into the elegant "entertainment room" of the White House with its white fluting columns, immense chandeliers parquet floor and four fireplaces, this was serious business.

Basically, what the President had to say was that he thought the Iran deal was good at the start. But because it went wrong, with a diversion of money to the Contras of Nicaragua which he still did not understand, "I would never go down that road again."

That bit is worth quoting: "It was an opportunity presented by people evidently of some substance in the Iranian government, to open up a channel, to probably better relations between our two countries, maybe even leading to more influence in getting this terrible war ended there in the Middle East."

Then he explained, the Iranians asked for arms and we had to tell them we don't do business with terrorists. So the Iranians offered to prove that they were not terrorists, "and this is how we were not going to overlook an opportunity if we could get those hostages back, and we're not going to overlook an opportunity in the future. But we're not going to try the same thing again, because we see how it worked." President Reagan, nonetheless contended that his effort did win freedom for at least one hostage and would probably have won more had it not been for the disclosure in the press of what was going on.

A correspondent asked whether he had considered how the Arabs would feel about shipments of arms to their 'mortal enemy.'

The President replied in full as follows: "I think we have a very good relationship, better than we've had in many, many decades with the countries of the Middle East. And I think we have proven our friendship for them to the place that they could understand what we were doing.

But I also think it ought to be noted that countries in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and the Communist bloc have been selling arms to both sides in this war for the last few years and they've been selling about, almost four times as much to Iraq as they have to Iran. And the biggest amount of sales is coming from the Communist bloc to both sides. So what I was sure of was that we were not affecting the balance — military balance-between the two countries with the small amount that we were going to sell."

Mr Reagan said he was not informed in advance of the diversion of funds from the Iran deal to the Contras of Nicaragua. "And it was a complete surprise to me to discover that there was an additional sum and this, I think, is the thing we're still waiting for that needs to be explained."

Going into some detail about "where I went wrong" he explained that a "third party" — namely the Israelis — told him "they can have influence on people over there, these kidnappers, and could get your people free. I did not see that as having anything to do with the kidnappers." It was the Iranians, he went on, who transformed the transaction into bargaining for more weapons for more released hostages.

Towards the end of the 30 minute conference, a lady asked a cruel question: "If you were truly unaware of the millions of dollars in government money and government operations that North and Poindexter were directing to the Contras what does this say about your management style ... If you were unaware of these things and forgot when you actually approved the Iranian arms sale, what does it say about the way you've been managing the presidency."

The president replied somewhat lamely that his management style was that of many businessmen. He sets the policy and then does not interfere. "And the only time you move is if the evidence is incontrovertible that they are not following the policy or they have gone down a road on which they're not achieving what we want. And I think that is a good management policy."

But the critics in Washington are asking: "Was it really a good policy," the way it worked out?

AIDS — painting wrong picture

IN EAST Africa, AIDS — taking into consideration its wasting nature and symptoms — goes under the pseudonym SLIM. And despite the fact that Africa is not different from the rest of the world — as far as tragedies concerning civil strifes famine,drought are concerned — AIDS in Africa, has certainly been blown out of proportion. This is not surprising for it is a known practice of the Western media never to bring to light anything positive about the African continent; it is only negative headlines which attract attention.

AIDS has now become the talking point, and the sensation it has generated has given Western reporters a field day. But many do agree that in 'real terms' AIDS, as a disease in Africa, ranks lower in comparison to the scourge of malaria or other killer diseases.

Right from the start, when AIDS attracted global attention as the medical enigma of the 1980's, the Western media, without thorough and microscopic investigation, started an indoctrination campaign under the theme 'AIDS has its roots in Africa'. But close examination and — statistical data on the number of victims in America and Europe has given the 'roots in Africa' image a hollow ring. Certainly the British authorities are not stupid to earmark millions of pounds to educate the public on the realities of AIDS. And surely not all those affected elsewhere have visited Africa!

What even baffles most people is the real motives behind the Western media's propaganda drive. AIDS, is of course, at the moment 'hot and ripe' news; the intensity of coverage on Africa with its dismal connotations tends to follow the usual method with which matters affecting Africa are reported.

In the first place, since most governments have now, recognized the dangers inherent in AIDS, so splashing the pages of the Western papers with grim aspects will likely begin another form of financial aid drive. And like all previous aid packages to the continent, the so-called philanthropists stand to gain a lot from donors.

The racist element and bigotry is not lost, when some European governments are being blindfolded into passing harsh immigration laws to restrict travellers from Africa.

The game parks or forest reserves in East Africa — especially in Kenya, with its hordes of wild-life — has over the decades fascinated many a prospective tourist. They spend fortunes to escape from the 'civilized' and polluted industrial cities to observe nature at its best. These countries stand to gain considerably from the booming tourist trade. Thus filling pages in the Western press with unauthenticated AIDS scare is causing an ebb in the flow of visitors.

In truth, Africa has not been spared the spread of AIDS. But what the continent needs, is not a series of homilies 'preached' by the Western meadia. If Western authorities are really interested in helping, assistance could be given in the form of test kits to help screen blood, condoms, educative materials to make people wake up to the menace of AIDS.

Arab summit and Middle East peace

Al-Khaleej Al-Yom newspaper of Qatar demands a speedy convening of an Arab summit conference to bring about a unified strategy and employ Arab potentials to achieve the common goals. It says there is virtually no logical reason for not fixing a date for a summit when the situation in the region and in the international arena requires such step. The paper notes that many countries are now sympathetic to the Arab demands and believe in the justness of the Arab cause, making it essential for the Arabs to meet at a summit level and re-*spond to this growing world support* by adopting a unified position.

"The summit is not a goal by itself. What is being sought is to replace division and indecisiveness by unity and a determined common approach," writes the Qatari paper.

Al Ittihad newspaper of Abu Dhabi comments on recent moves by leader of the Israeli Labour Party, including the talks held last week between Abu Eban, the former Israeli foreign minister and a group of West Bank Palestinians. It casts doubts on the sincerity of these moves, recalling that after meeting King Hassan II of Morocco, the then Israeli Prime Minister, Shemon Peres, leader of the Labour Party, declares that he could not pledge to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and failed to take one step that could open the access to a peace road.

The paper expresses the view that the talks between Aba Eban, a labour leader, at the West Bank Palestinians are aimed at causing further inter-Pakistanian division and also at dissolving the present Israeli coalition between the Labour and Likud so that new elections could be held that might result in a purely Labour cabinet.

The Gulf war — The Iranian anti-ship missiles"

The Baghdad newspaper **Al Thawra** writes that despite the great achievements by the Iraqi people and army in the "Iranian *year of decisiveness*" more alerteness and preparedness are required in the next stage to crush the remaining Iranian aggressors and score an ultimate victory. It adds *that the destructive raids carried out* by Iraqi airforce planes on Iranian airfields on 23 March were not casual but signalling the beginning of a new stage designed to *cripple Iran's capability of continuing the* war.

"The great achievement which Iraq has *scored during the so-called year of* decisiveness gave a fresh Baghdad a fresh strength and made it more determined to reach its strategic goal of establishing a just, honourable and permanent peace," asserts the Iraqi paper.

Al-Raya newspaper of Qatar says that US threats to intervene to secure safe shipping *in the Gulf* and *Iranian counter-threats* constitute grave escalation and pose serious dangers to the security of the region. It adds that these developments are tantamount *to an invitation to internationalize* the conflict in the service of superpower strategies.

Al-Raya calls on the parties not to further *escalate the situation and the work instead* on finding a solution to the conflict.

Al Wihda newspaper of Abu Dhabi writes that the threat to block shipping in the *Straits of Hormuz means in one way or* another, opening wide the door for the fleets of the superpowers to sail into the area for military intervention. It calls on the two *warring Muslim nations to try to avoid* such tragic turn of events which would severely hurt their national interests and further aggravate their economic conditions.

A Kuwaiti magazine **Al Watan** also charges that Iran's intransigence and irresponsible actions provide the big powers with the opportunity for military inervention in *the interest of their ambitions* in the strategic region. "The continuation of the war benefits the Zionists and imperialist powers at the expense of Arab and Muslim interest. *Iranian leaders must grasp this simple* fact and try to end the war through negotiations and peaceful means," writes the Kuwaiti paper.

On the US arms deals with Iran, an Algerian newspaper **Al Sha'ab** writes that Israel is the sole beneficiary in the scandal. The U.S. administration, the paper adds, gave the green light to its ally in the Middle East *(Israel) to act as a broker in the arms* sale game and in the end, the Americans lost and Israel emerged as the sole winner. The Algerian paper goes on to say that the cur-*rent media uproar in* the United States about the scandal is merely a facade for concealing US political weakness and America's collusion with the Zionists.

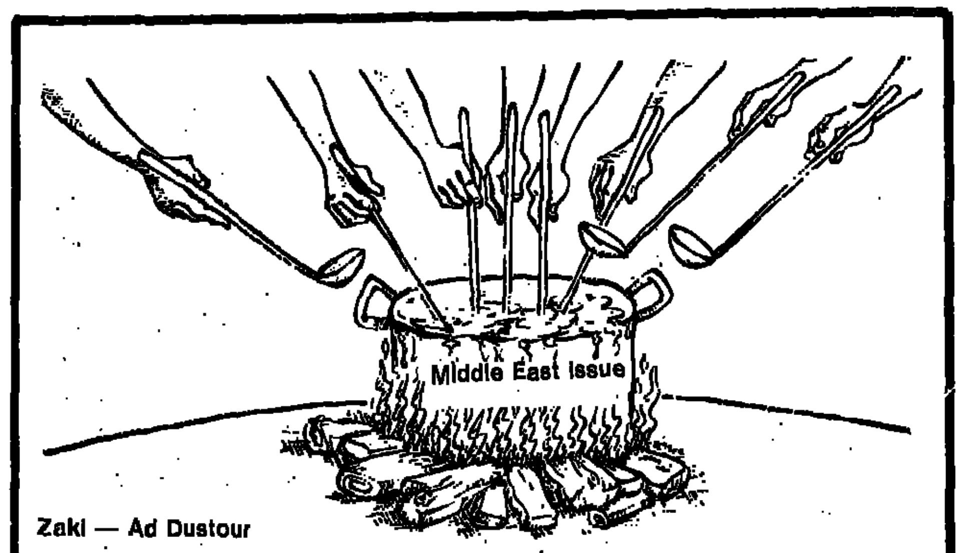
The clear result of the implications of this rather mysterious scandal is the fall of the US administration into a Zionist trap from which it is not easy to escape or attempting *to find an honourable exit*," writes Al-Sha'ab.

Ad Dustour newspaper of Jordan notes that recent regional and international moves show growing world agreement on the need to convene an international conference and remove the remaining obstacles obstructing the achievement of this goal. It adds that Jordan's efforts to muster the largest possible international support have been most effective in reaching that world-wide agreement. Thanks to these efforts, the paper continues, countries of the East and the West are now agreed on the necessity of finding a machinery to implement UN resolutions on the Middle East problem, foremost of which are 242 and 338.

While Jordan pursues its diplomatic campaign in the international arena **Ad Dustour** adds, it continues to seek a greater degree of coordination among Arab capitals directly involved in the problem and urges a unified Arab stand which gives the legitimate Arab demands additional weight and better attention.

Al'Ra'i newspaper writes that the Israeli occupation authorities have closed universities and schools in the occupied West Bank *and taken other arbitrary measures in an* anticipation of anti- Israeli protests on the 30 March which marks the Land Day. This is because the occasion reminds the Pales-*tinian people of their commitment to their* national soil and rekindles the spirit of resistance against the Israeli occupation.

Al-Ra'i asserts that the Arab people of Palestine will continue their struggle, despite Israel's cruel measures, until liberation is achieved.



Zaki — Ad Dustour

Davar writes: The Minister of Immigration Ya'qub Tsour has urged the Labour Party leaders in a lecture in the Haifa branch of the Labour Party to dissolve the coalition *government and embark on holding new* Knesset elections. He justified this call by saying that the deep differences between the two leading parties on so many issues — including the *international peace conference* — can never be settled or solved. The paper adds that Labour officials are completely aware that it is very difficult to reach an agreement or a compromise with the Likud on these issues. In this confusing situation the dismantling of the government and the holding of early elections is inevitable and the continuation of the present bipartisan *coalition* is just useless.

Those who have a phobia for peace are the only ones afraid of the international peace conference. And those who reject peace and peace conferences should not remain in power because they apparently want more Jewish blood to be shed in new wars with the Arabs, says the paper.

Haaretz says that many news agencies reported last Monday that the United States has announced its approval of the convening of an international peace conference with Soviet participation. The paper says if this is true, then we can expect a real detente in the efforts towards a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. The US and *USSR's approval* of the conference represent a strong push for the peace march because the two superpowers have a strong and direct influence on international rela-*tions and diplomacy* throughout the entire world. As regards the Arab-Israeli dispute, adds the paper, the American and Soviet positive approval will indubitably contribute *to and encourage* the peace efforts currently being exerted.

Koterit Rashit writes: The international peace conference has become an important *demand for all parties* involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, the Israelis are currently adopting two different attitudes toward the conference; the first, rep-*resented by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir,* strongly opposes the conference and insists on holding direct talks with the Arab countries separately; the second, repre-*sented by Shimon Peres, backs the idea* provided that the preliminary session is held under an international umbrella with Arab and Israeli delegations being divided into *sub-committees which would in turn hold* direct talks, says the paper

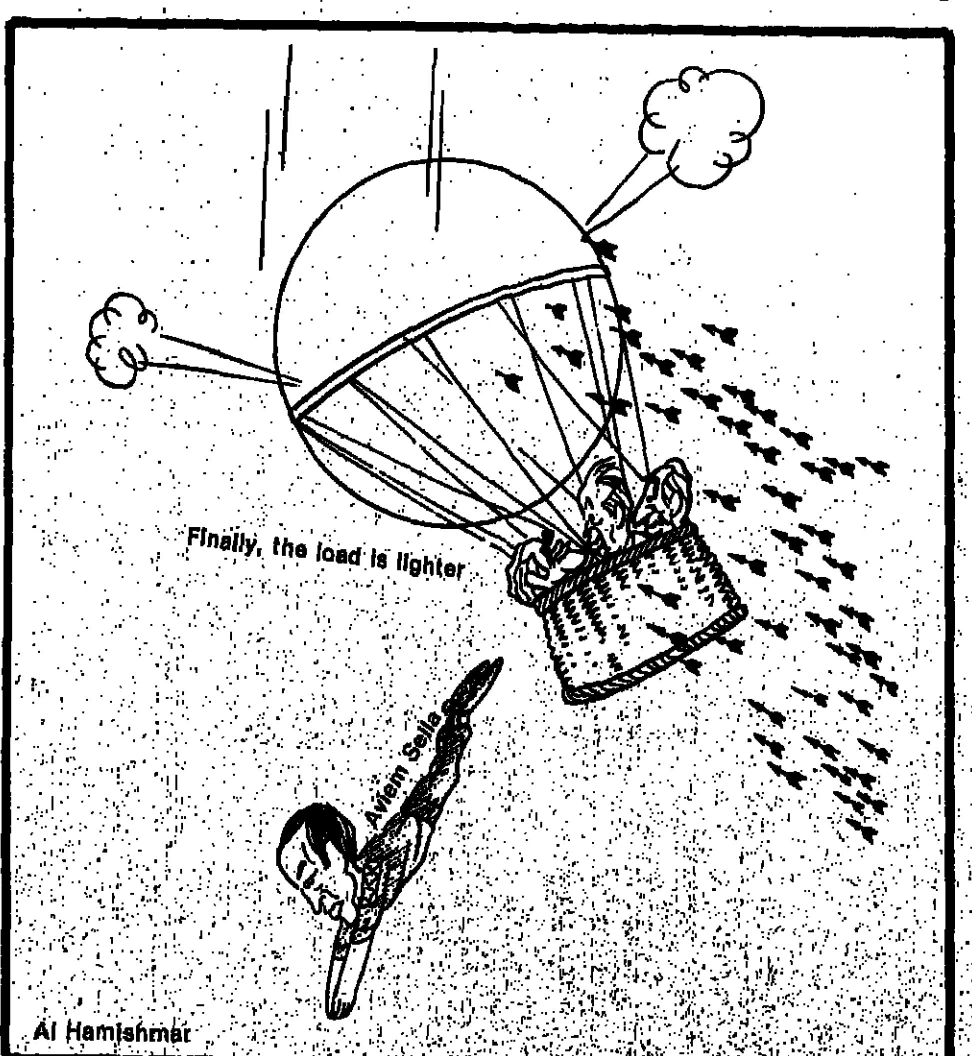
Al Quds Arabic paper says that no one can deny the fact that there is a change in *the Arab attitudes regarding the Middle* East conflict. All the Arab countries have started to adopt moderate policies and they actually look forward to boost the establish-*ment of peace in the region.* Needless to say, the paper adds, that the Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine are the most enthusiastic people for having a just *and durable peace.* This is simply because they have been the most affected people by the continuation of the stagnant status quo. Former US President Jimmy Carter listened to the Palestinians and observed their strong desire for peace. The paper asks: What did Carter hear from the Israeli leaders and what will the US administration say upon reading his visiting report?

It is very unfortunate, adds the paper, that the Arab moderation has not been matched with a similar Israeli moderation. *Israel still adheres to its stubborn and hard-*line policies and this is characterized by the construction of more settlements in the occupied territories. In addition, it absolutely *rejects the establishment of a just peace,* concludes **Al Quds** paper.

Al Hamishmar comments that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has taken a worthwhile initiative by meeting with *a number of* prominent Palestinian figures from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This new tendency of opening channels of dialogue with Palestinians constitutes a positive *step in the re-*gion and a constructive shift in the policies of the Labour Party leaders. The paper goes on by saying that Peres, Aba Ebban committee, and other Labour *officials are now-*days embracing healthy and progressive stances toward the Arab World and the Palestinians. We hope that this phenomena will be encouraged and *continued so that a* just and lasting peace is achieved in the long run.

Kol Haer says that the numerous statements former President *Jimmy Carter* made during his last visit to the Middle East Region unravels a relatively positive shift in his overt attitude towards the Palestinian problems. They also reflect a *real desire for* convening an international peace conference in order to diffuse the Arab-Israeli conflict. We in turn voice our full appreciation of Carter's positive attitude *and hope* that the present US administration will adopt a similar stand so that the proposed international peace conference will be held with the complete participation *of all parties* concerned.

The paper adds that Jimmy Carter has *toured a number of Arab* cities including Hebron and Bethlehem and observed with his own eyes the conditions prevailing in the occupied territories. Now he realizes very *well the necessity for peace* so that the two nations could co-exist and live peacefully together, concludes the paper.



Al Hamishmar

Arab Bank Ltd.

Dear Shareholders,

I note with great pleasure that at the end of August 1986, I had completed fifty years of continuous service with the Arab Bank, and I thank God who gave me the strength and power to carry out my duties during that long period. As you know, the main credit goes to the Founder, the late Abdulhameed Shoman, whose ceaseless efforts and wide guidance enabled us to overcome the numerous difficulties encountered and to build up the worldwide reputation and the strong position which the Bank now enjoys. This institution started as a mere dream in his mind and was brought to reality through his *determination and dedication before his death in 1974.* Although happy with the institution he had established, he died with sadness in his heart since his country, Palestine, especially Holy Jerusalem was under enemy occupation.

It is our duty to carry on hard work, in his footsteps, and expand the activities of the institution in every Arab country which allows us to do so, and in other countries wherever feasible. It is gratifying that the Arab Bank is now *the widest-spread Arab institution in the world*, with branches and subsidiaries throughout the five continents.

As you will note in the Directors Report, 1986 witnessed a further expan-*sion of your institution in the Far East, Western Europe and the Middle East.*

The Arab Bank Group balance sheet shows that Total Assets have increased by 7.2% reaching US$ 12.7 billion at the end of 1986.

The Total Assets of Arab Bank Limited reached more than JD 3,187 million and Deposits over JD 2,97[illegible] in spite of the fact that around 70% of Deposits are [illegible] dollar decreased in value against the JD and [illegible] currencies. Net profit for appropriation and distribution amounted to JD [illegible] million was allocated [illegible] Reserves [illegible] the Profit and [illegible] Account. The Board of Directors [illegible] the distribution of JD [illegible] (35% of the share nominal value). These results are [illegible] satisfactory when we take into consideration the adverse economic situation [illegible] the dollar [illegible] and the drop of interest rates [illegible] also had an extensive [illegible] the two countries [illegible] tries [illegible] projects were [illegible] sector was also adversely affected as reflected in [illegible] volume of bad debts, which urged the central banks and monetary agencies to extend aid to some banks and intensify supervisory measures [illegible] especially [illegible] customers.

[illegible] continued to face many difficulties. Although the industrial countries were able to control inflation which [illegible] the monetary system for fifteen years [illegible] unemployment and imbalances in their foreign accounts, causing tension and instability. Furthermore, their economic growth was moderate and not sufficient to boost the economy of the Third World.

The economies of most developing countries have worsened with prices of their raw materials decreasing to the lowest level since the 2nd World War, and with their indebtedness increasing and rendering them unable to compete in the international markets and to develop their economies. Without sufficient aid from the developed nations, the position of the developing countries will continue to worsen and will reflect badly on the international trade and economy. Now that the industrial countries have saved substantial amounts, exceeding US$ 100 billion, from the *large decrease in oil prices*, they are able more than before to extend help and aid to the needy countries of the Third World so that these countries may solve their problems, thus advancing world stability *as a whole*.

Besides the economic and political problems in the world, pollution of the environment has become a growing threat to life on our planet. Man, animals and plants have become subjected to the *hazards of radiations from nuclear* generators, to the harmful products of chemical industries, the nitrates of fertilizers intensively used in agriculture which pollute river and subterranean waters, the *acid rain which destroys forests*, and the smoke of vehicles and factories in and near large cities. All these pollute the environment and must be confronted through regional global cooperation.

The Arab world has *unfortunately shown neither sufficient* cooperation nor practical economic integration. It should exploit in a more efficient way its vast potentialities of manpower, material resources and strategic position, and facilitate movement *of capital and labour* force throughout the Arab countries to enhance development. Some Asian countries like China and India which a few years ago were importers of foodstuff have now become food *exporters as a result of encouragement* to agriculture and farmers, giving them incentives and finding new markets for their products. By contrast, importation of food by the Arab world is on the increase in spite of its immense *agricultural potentialities.*

We continue to repeat these points in our Annual Reports, because we feel that the situation is becoming continuously worse. We hope that Arab leaders *and nations will stand up together in,* the face of the imminent dangers in order to improve their situation and retrieve their rights and the occupied territories.

Abdulmajeed Shoman
Chairman, Board of Directors

Balance Sheet as of 31 December 1986

Assets	1986 US$	1986 JD	1985 JD
Cash in hand and at banks	5,764,864,843	1,981,734,219	1,860,082,298
Items in transit			15,077,736
Bonds (government & other)	547,913,475	188,351,143	176,860,976
Investments (incl.subsidiaries)	68,661,293	23,603,057	21,392,709
Bills discounted	143,892,946	49,464,746	58,163,889
Loans	2,592,967,450	891,360,416	891,821,391
Bank premises (less depreciation)	31,536,838	10,841,127	10,969,847
Furniture & equipment (less depreciation)	17,298,057	5,946,393	5,695,035
Customers' liability on acceptances	48,818,803	16,781,988	20,826,412
Other Assets	57,569,343	19,790,080	19,475,398
Total Assets	9,273,523,048	3,187,873,169	3,079,755,491
Customers' liability on guarantees and credits (per contra)	1,699,238,784	584,131,586	604,820,477
Balance Sheet Total	10,972,761,832	3,772,004,755	3,684,575,968

Liabilities	1986 US$	1986 JD	1985 JD
Deposits & other accounts	8,660,662,266	2,977,195,691	2,902,815,129
Acceptances	48,818,803	16,781,988	20,826,412
Items in Transit	63,360,318	21,780,780	
Capital authorized and fully paid (JD 10 per share)	63,998,000	22,000,000	22,000,000
Statutory reserve	63,998,000	22,000,000	22,000,000
General reserve	203,630,000	70,000,000	60,000,000
Voluntary reserve	93,088,000	32,000,000	27,500,000
Undivided profit	53,525,600	18,400,000	17,100,000
Net profit (for distribution)	22,442,062	7,714,700	7,713,950
Total liabilities	9,273,523,048	3,187,873,169	3,079,755,491
Guarantees and credits (per contra)	1,699,238,784	584,131,586	604,820,477
Balance Sheet Total	10,972,761,832	3,772,004,755	3,684,575,968

Khalid A.H. Shoman
Deputy Chairman

Abdulmajeed A.H. Shoman
Chairman

Profit and Loss Account for the year 1986

Operation Income	1986	1985 JD
Interest received	[illegible]	351,295,280
Less: Interest paid	[illegible]	317,796,904
Net Interest	31,707,492	33,498,378
Commissions	11,080,358	10,375,192
Income from exchange	8,169,535	6,076,779
Income from securities	10,635,713	13,406,001
Other income	5,250,584	2,935,140
Total Income	66,843,682	66,291,488
Operation Expenses & Provisions		
Salaries and fringe benefits	19,901,162	20,312,448
Depreciation	1,431,132	1,868,877
Taxes	2,320,584	3,401,129
Other expenses	19,376,804	18,107,291
Total Expenses	43,028,982	43,272,624
Net profit for appropriation	23,514,700	25,013,950
Undivided profit	17,100,000	15,100,000
Total	40,614,700	40,113,950
Deduct:		
Transfer to statutory reserve		2,300,000
Transfer to general reserve	10,000,000	8,000,000
Transfer to voluntary reserve	4,500,000	5,000,000
Dividends	7,700,000	7,700,000
Director's remuneration	14,700	13,950
Balance of undivided profit	18,400,000	17,100,000

Auditor's Report

To the Shareholders of Arab Bank Limited:

We have examined the balance sheet of the Arab Bank Limited (a Jordanian public shareholding company) as of 31 December 1986 and 1985 and the related statement of profit and loss and statement of changes in financial position for the years then ended. We have obtained the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records kept at the bank's head office and branches and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances and to the extent allowed by the laws in force in the countries where the bank is operating.

The bank maintains proper books and records and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of Arab Bank Ltd. as of 31 December 1986 and 1985 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the years then ended, in conformity with the law and with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year. We recommend that the General Assembly approve these financial statements and adopt the proposal of the Board of Directors to declare a dividend of JD 3.500 per share.

Saba & Co.
Amman, Jordan, 17 January 1987.

Board of Directors' 57 th Annual Report

For the year ended 31 December 1986, submitted to the General Assembly of Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting held at the Bank's Head Office Building, Shmeisani, Amman, at 10.00 a.m. Friday, 27 Marh 1987.

Dear Shareholders,

While most industrial countries have achieved some stability and moderate rates of growth without inflation, the growth rate of the heavily indebted countries of the Third World has receded to almost half that of the previous year. On the whole, most countries in the world continued to face difficulties at different levels as shown in the following résumé.

The Jordan Economy

Jordan continued to adapt its economy to the stagnation which started in the area in the early eighties. Arab economic aid to Jordan during the nine months of 1986 dropped to JD 135 million from JD 190 million in the same period of 1985. Remittances from the Jordanian expatriates have stabilized, and amounted to JD 217 million in the first half of 1986, slightly above the JD 196 million during the same period in the previous year. In 1986 more workers were repatriated, as they have become redundant in the oil countries, and unemployment in Jordan went up to about 8% and is expected to increase in the coming few years creating major economic and social problems. To be able to cope with this situation and to partly compensate for the loss of foreign exchange earnings, the Jordanian Government concentrated on increasing the volume of Jordanian exports by exempting them from income tax, raising custom dues on imported goods of the types that are produced locally and stopping importation of luxury goods or increasing the dues on them. To encourage investment, it has treated Arab investment capital as Jordanian, made changes in the monetary and fiscal policies so as to encourage the private sector to take the initiative and play a greater role in the development of the economy, especially in agriculture where the cultivated areas have increased and the production per dunum has improved as a result of modern methods being introduced. The Government has also secured sufficient liquidity and preserved a stable rate of exchange for the Jordan dinar against other currencies in the local and Arab money markets.

In order to face the probable continuity of the economic slowdown in the first year (1986) and the following years of the five-year plan (1986-1990), a policy of adjustment and adaptation to the economic developments in the area was followed by the Government. Economic activities are closely interconnected throughout the area, especially the Jordanian market which is closely related to the neighbouring Arab markets both in trade and labour. The adaptation policy will continue until the time when the economic slowdown is over and growth is resumed at the previous normal rates.

G.N.P. totalled JD 1,581 million at market price in 1985, representing an increase of 6.1% over 1984. The trade balance registered a deficit of JD 454 million during the first three quarters of 1986 as compared with JD 520 million in the same period of 1985. Exports of potash, cement, phosphates and fertilizers registered a decrease. The level of prices kept stable and the inflation rate of about 3% in 1985 dropped to about 1.2%, the lowest since the end of the sixties.

In spite of stagnation and other adverse conditions, the Jordanian economy was run with good management together with adequate monetary, fiscal and tax policies which enabled Jordan to enjoy a good financial reputation in the money markets and to borrow without difficulties from those markets.

Arab Economy

For the economy of the other Arab countries, 1986 was also one of the most difficult years of the decade to date. It has witnessed severe economic and social crises accompanied by political unrest and security problems, which must be confronted with practical measures on the regional and national levels.

The major factor causing the economic crisis is the sharp drop of the oil prices from an official rate of US$ 34 a barrel in 1982 to US$ 28 in 1985 and to less than US$ 10 for a period during 1986. At its meetings held at the end of the year OPEC extended its previous agreement regarding the production ceilings assigned to the member states until the end of the year. A committee was set up to study the stabilization of prices and the means to raise them to US$ 18 per barrel as from the beginning of 1987. To realize this, OPEC agreed to reduce total production from 17 million to 15.8 million barrels per day, and production ceilings of the members were revised accordingly and approved, with the exception of Iraq which requested its share to be raised.

The large decrease in the value of the dollar made things worse for the oil exporters, as it is the currency usually used for the pricing of oil and most items of international trade. In February 1985 it was DM 3.31 and 250 Japanese yen, and at the end of 1986 it dropped to DM 1.92 and 158 yen representing decreases of 42% and 38% respectively. Furthermore, the Iraq-Iran war has entered its seventh year without any signs of a solution, and continued to affect the situation of the whole region and the world stability.

As a result of all these factors, the revenue of the Arab oil-exporting countries dropped from a peak of US$ 216 billion in 1980 to US$ 117 billion in 1984, US$ 95 billion in 1985 and US$ 65 billion in 1986. Those countries experienced deficits in their balance of payments and were forced to draw from their foreign currency reserves and to borrow from the international money markets. Economic activity slowed down, the execution of many new projects was stopped as governments adopted austerity policies reducing their expenditures and cutting down the allocations for the five-year development plans; this has affected importers, contractors and the banking sector which became overburdened with bad debts and suffered from a decrease in activities and profits.

Aid from the oil exporters to the neighbouring countries dropped gradually from US$ 8.3 billion in 1981 to US$ 4 billion in 1985. The latter countries found themselves compelled to depend more on foreign sources to finance their deficits, and total Arab indebtedness exceeded US$ 100 billion by the end of 1985.

An important result of the eco-

nomic stagnation in the Arab oil-exporting countries was its passive effect on the Arab labour force moving across the borders to wherever needed and estimated at four million persons. These labourers contributed during the boom period to the economic development of the oil countries as well as their own countries which benefited from their substantial remittances in foreign currencies and had lower unemployment rates. As early as 1982 when the oil countries started to control their expenditures and restrict their new projects, they ceased to import foreign labour, *and soon after, the flow of labourers* was reversed towards their countries of origin which may cause serious unemployment problems and a drop in foreign currency reserves.

Perhaps the most serious problem resulting from the continuation of the oil crisis and the existence of bottle-necks and lack of priorities in the Arab economic structure is the continuously increasing food deficits in the Arab countries, *to the extent* that some countries, e.g. Sudan, suffered from famine and thousands of people died, although the cultivable agricultural area in Sudan exceeds 11 million hectares. In 1984 the Arab countries imported foodstuff for about US$ 23 billion, whereas their food exports amounted to only US$ 3 billion and the deficit is on the increase.

World Economy

Contrary to expectations, the economic activity in most industrial countries, particularly industrial production, has been somewhat *sluggish during 1986*. Major developments including the sharp fall in oil prices, the further erosion of the prices of primary commodities, the substantial drop in the US$ value and the decline in international interest rates are expected to have a profound impact on the world economy. By the end of the year their effects began to boost the economy of some developed countries and will pick up more as domestic demand responds to lower interest rates and *higher real incomes.*

Economic growth of those countries on the whole was moderate at an average of about 2.7% for Europe, 3.2% for Japan, and 3.0% for the United States. However, it was uninflationary, and will conti*nue as a sustained growth only if* the large imbalances in trade are redressed. Presently the United States is suffering from an increasing deficit in its trade balance; this deficit increased from 123 billion dollars in 1984 to 148 billion in 1985 and 170 billion in 1986. The United States current account was US$ 123 billion in deficit in 1986, whereas Japan had a surplus of US$ 83 billion and West Germany a surplus of US$ 36 billion. There is also a serious deficit in the United States Federal Budget, which has increased to 220 billion dollars in 1986. In order to alleviate such imbalances, the big industrial countries held meetings in September 1985 and May 1986 and agreed to take the necessary *measures to decrease* interest and exchange rates of the dollar so as to help the United States compete with Japan and West Germany by an increase in exports. As a result, the interst rate on the dollar fell during the year from 8.25% to 6% and the value of the dollar fell from 2.5 DM to about 1.92 DM and from 200 Japanese yen to about [illegible] yen by the end of the year. The United States continued, however, to lay pressure on Japan and Germany *to lower their interest rates* and activate their economies and domestic demand so that American exports could increase. Japan decreased its discounts rate from 3.5% to 3.0%.

Unemployment remained a disturbing factor in the industrial countries, especially in Europe, where average unemployment was [illegible] compared with 7% in the United States.

Those developments have had negative effects on the economies of oil-exporting countries, whose revenues decreased by about US$ 100 billion, forcing them to review their positions and cut down the allocations for their development plans.

As to the developing nations, the growth rate of some heavily indebted countries has decreased by half. Per capita income of some countries in East Asia increased by about 20% since 1980, whereas in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America it has decreased.

Oil-importing countries have benefited from the decreases in oil prices, international interest rates and the value of the dollar, but have suffered a 17% real drop in the prices of their primary commodities which registered a record post-war low. Furthermore, custom dues and trade barriers impeded the export of those commodities. Had the industrial nations agreed upon reasonable prices for imported commodities and relaxed their trade barriers and restrictions, they would have helped the developing countries much more effectively than by the loans they gave. Also the subsides of the developed nations to their exports of agricultural products reflected negatively on the agriculture of the developing nations. Industrial countries should help in developing agriculture in the Third World, whether through the advancement of scientific research or through the enhancement of agricultural production. More help should come *not only from governments* of industrial countries, but also from the international institutions and the private commercial establishments through larger investment and adjustment loans and guidance at a scale sufficient to enable the developing nations to achieve reasonable economic growth and settle their debts and debt services. Adequate increaes should be made in the financial potentialities of the World Bank to increase its investment loans, of the I.M.F. *to be more able to* extend adjustment aid and the correction of balances of payments, and of the I.D.A. to give more long-term loans at low interest rates to the poor countries burdened with debts and facing difficulties in obtaining financing from the money markets and governments. Such countries should also be allowed to have more access to the special drawing rights at the I.M.F. The developing countries themselves must take an active part in solving their *problems.* They should make necessary adjustments in their monetary and fiscal policies, control their expenditures and create incentives for savings and investments, both domestic and foreign. Encouraging levels of interest rates, reasonable exchange rates of their currencies, revised tax laws, relaxation of trade barriers and finding new markets for their exports are important incentives. An active and prosperous private sector would attract foreign investors *and* encourage them to capitalize a part of their funds and lending as investments in some local establishments and projects.

Comments on Important Items in the 1986 Financial Statements

In spite of the relatively weak world economy and the stagnation of the Arab economy, the figures of the balance sheet of your institution have not decreased; on the contrary Total Assets have registered an increase over 1985.

Such an increase has been realized even though the exchange rates of the currencies of the branches outside Jordan against the Jordan dinar, our reporting currency, have decreased to an extent never recorded in the previous years. The dinar has appreciated from US$ 2.72 to US$ 2.91 *or a 7.4% increase, from* £ Stg. 1.89 to £ Stg. 1.98 or a 4.6% increase and from about 49 to 253 Lebanese Liras, representing a 414% increase. Such increases have negative effects on the figures of those branches when converted into JD for compilation purposes, and lead to apparent decreases in the items of the combined balance sheet, especially as about 70% of Deposits and Cash at Banks are in foreign currencies, maninly US$.

Notwithstanding all this, Deposits reached JD 2,977 million in 1986 compared with JD 2,903 million in 1985. These funds are mostly invested for periods matching those of the Deposits. The decrease in Loans from JD 949.8 million to JD 940.8 million is the result of the drop in the exchange rates, the economic slow down and more caution on our part in granting facilities. These conditions have adversely affected trade and contracting activities, and hence the decrease in Documentary Credits by JD 8.8 million and in Letters of Guarantee by JD 42.4 million.

Cash and Balances due from banks stood at JD [illegible] million against JD 1860.0 million in 1985, and these balances *are placed for* periods up to one year at the money market interest rates. Cash represents 66.6% of Deposits. You will notice that the Bonds item has increased from JD 176.7 million in 1985 to JD 188.0 million; the increase is mainly due to the purchase of local government bonds, which some of our branches have to buy according to local regulations, and which can be readily repaid at the central banks or sold at the money markets. *When these marketable bonds are* added to the cash, the liquid assets of the Bank rise to JD 2,170 million or 72.9% of Deposits.

Investments (including subsidiaries) rose from JD 21.4 million to JD 23.6 million in 1986, an increase of JD 2.2 million. Actually the increase is greater, as an amount of JD 2.7 million, the equivalent of 12.5 million Australian dollars, was paid for the capital of Arab Australia Ltd., and JD 343,750, the equivalent of US$ 1 million, was paid for the capital of the newly established Arab Capital Investment Company in Luxembourg which owns Arab Bank (Austria). But the real increase in investments appeared smaller in the balance sheet because of the drop in exchange rates.

Bank premises, furniture and equipment were depreciated in accordance with local regulations in the different countries.

Earnings

A *proportionate part of interest* and commission received accrues from foreign currencies. As a result of the decreases in international interest rates and in exchange rates against the Jordan dinar, Earnings before tax and after subtraction of the interest paid increased only by about JD 0.5 million to JD 66.8 million in 1986. An adequate amount was allocated to internal reserves. After deduction of all expenses including employees' salaries and *benefits*, depreciation, administrative expenses, taxes and provisions, an amount of JD 23.6 million is left over as net profit for appropriation.

Appropriation of Net Profit

The Board of Directors recommends the following appropriations:

- JD 15.8 million to the reserves.
- JD 7.7 million as dividends to the Shareholders at JD 3.6 per share (36% of the par value of JD 10) payable as from Thursday 30th April, 1987).
- JD 14,700 as remuneration to the Members of the Board of Directors.
- On the occasion of its 25th anniverary, our sister institution, Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd., will distribute a special dividend of 5% in addition to the ordinary 10% dividend.

Shareholders Equity

	million
Paid-up capital remained at	JD 22.0
Total reserves, after allocation from the 1986 profit	JD 142.4

Total Equity	JD 164.4

This represents an increase of 10.6% over 1985

New Branches

Our Cannes branch in France commenced its activities in June 1986 and is fully equipped to render its services to the Arab visitors and local residents throughout the year. Another branch was opened in December in Chtoura, Lebanon. A permit has been obtained from the Egyptian Government to open a second branch in Cairo and a part of a building in Heliopolis quarters was purchased to accommodate the new branch which will open for business during 1987. Thus we shall have three branches in Egypt: two in Cairo and one in Alexandria, all dealing in the major transferable currencies.

Arab Australia Ltd, our new subsidiary bank in Sydney, opened in early September 1986, and our representative office in Tokyo, Japan, opened in November 1986. We hope to establish shortly a representative office in Seoul, South Korea. You will notice that *we are presently concentrating on* opening new branches and offices in the Far East and Australia on account of the economic importance of those parts of the world.

Board of Directors

On 28th March 1986 a new Board was elected, and is composed as follows:

Mr. Abdulmajeed A.H. Shoman,
Mr. Khalid A.H. Shoman,
Mr. Abdel Hamid A.M. Shoman,
Mr. Mahmoud M. Beydoun,
Mr. Farouk K. Jabre,
Mr. George S. Tannous,
Mr. Munib R. Masri,
Mr. Hasib J. Sabbagh,
Mr. Rafic B. Alhariri,
Ministry of Finance and Economy, Saudi Arabia.
Ministry of Finance and Petroleum, Kuwait.

*We wish to thank Mr Badr Kha*lid Al Badr for all the services he rendered to the Bank during his membership, and Mr. Faisal A.R. Al Khalid who represented the Ministry of Finance and Petroleum, Kuwait, in one Board meeting. He became then a minister in the Kuwaiti government and Mr. Saad Ali Alnahedh was chosen as a new representative.

The Board of Directors ex*presses its gratitude to all clients* who entrust their business to the branches as a result of confidence, and thanks all employees of the Bank and its subsidiaries and sister institutions for their good efforts in the service of the customers and the progress of their institutions. May God give us strength to achieve our aim of rendering more support to the economy of the Arab homeland and all countries where we operate.

BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

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21620 ARABNK JO
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= 23094 ARABSH JO

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Amman
(Dealing in Money Chaning)
Tel 644134

Jabal Amman
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Abu Na'meh Building
near Zahrain Police
Amman
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Tlx 23793 ARABJA JO

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Khaled Ben Alwaleed Street
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Tlx = 21164 ARABJH JO

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Tlx 21854 ARABLU JO

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Tlx 21463 ARBAMS JO

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Tlx 21080 ARABKA JO

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ARAB = 40103 LE

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Al-Moayyed Building
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United Kingdom: Arab Bank Investment Company Ltd.
Australia: Arab Australia Ltd.
Tunisia: Arab Tunisian Bank
Morocco: Arab Bank Maroc
Oman: Oman Arab Bank S.A.O.
Saudi Arabia: Arab National Bank
Nigeria: Nigeria - Arab Bank Ltd.
Luxembourg: UBAE Arab German Bank
West Germany: UBAE Arab German Bank
France: UBAF
Hong Kong: UBAF (Hong Kong) Ltd.
U.S.A.: UBAF Arab American Bank

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy

Arab aid can be counted on say British experts

By Roderick Smith
Star UK Correspondent

LONDON — Arab and Opec countries still provide no less than 10 per cent of total world aid to developing countries, according to British analysts.

The semi-official Committee for Middle East Trade, (Comet), in an analysis titled Trends in Arab Aid to the Developing World, says Arab countries benefit from over 50 per cent of Arab aid.

"Most important of all is the fact that most of the Arab Funds can now be regarded as permanent endowments," Comet experts conclude.

"A number have substantially paid up capital and reserves, which means that they are unlikely to be significantly affected by the temporary downturn in Arab oil revenues and will therefore be maintaining their funding programmes."

In 1980, when Arab aid reached its peak at US $9.6 billion, aid commitments represented 4.7 per cent of Arab donors' total oil revenues. In 1984 Arab aid was again worth 4.7 per cent of that year's oil revenues of $92.5 billion.

In 1985 there was only a small drop in the proportion of revenues committed to aid — to 4 per cent of an estimated revenue total of $84 billion. Comet concludes: "This would suggest that the Arab Funds generally should still be looked to for future assistance, especially in the project field."

The massive financial Arab contribution to the prosperity of the developing world took off more than a quarter-of-a-century ago. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in 1961 marked an organized effort by a major oil exporting state to share part of its newly-acquired wealth with less privileged developing countries.

Other Arab aid agencies were also set up — including the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Saudi Fund. The Arab initiative also pioneered the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' aid programme. Comet notes: "95 per cent of what is termed Opec aid is, in fact, Arab funded."

An entirely new feature of the international aid scene was the emergency in the 1970s — as major aid donors — of Opec, especially the Arab members. Many countries in the developing world have come to rely on outside support and, in particular, on official development assistance (ODA).

Opec aid, totalling over US $706 billion, represented no less than 20 per cent of all international assistance to the developing world between 1973 and 1985. It included aid from Iran, Nigeria and Venezuela, but 95 per cent of such aid funds came from eight Arab Opec members.

Comet points out: "Aid on this scale has clearly contributed substantially to world aid programmes, but the mere figures do not alone do full justice to Opec/Arab contribution.

"It is only when the annual value of aid is expressed as a percentage of the donor's gross national product (GNP) that one can fully appreciate how much greater their contribution has been compared with that of the industrialized countries."

During 1973-1985 Opec/Arab aid flows, in relation to GNP, averaged around 1.6 per cent. This was more than double the target set by the United Nations of 0.7 per cent and four times the actual average for all donors of 0.38 per cent.

Comet comments: "The contribution in GNP terms continues to be high with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia contributing around 3 per cent of their GNP to aid as compared with the annual world average for 1985 of 0.38 per cent.

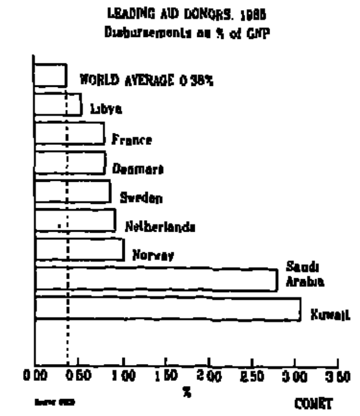
Egypt, prior to the 1979 Camp David agreement, Jordan and Syria have been the main beneficiaries of Arab aid followed by Morocco and the Yemen Arab Republic. Much was in the form of grants made by *governments on a* bilateral basis. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE also made substantial contributions to UN multilateral programmes.

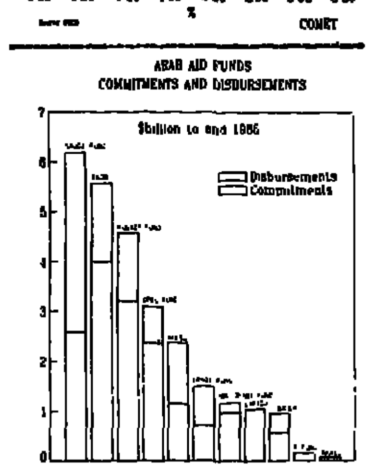
"However," Comet emphasizes, "the most important sources for project aid and technical assistance has been independent Arab Funds which include the Islamic Development Bank and the Opec Fund, both of which are largely Arab financed."

Latest available figures show main Arab recipients of Arab aid between May and August 1986 were Morocco, the Sudan and Jordan, together accounting for 10 projects valued at US $176 million or 42 per cent of the total.

In Asia, the main beneficiaries were Pakistan and Turkey — five projects worth US $76 million (18.2 per cent). In Africa Mozambique benefitted from two projects valued at US $16 million.

Comet is a British Government sponsored body set up in 1963 to advise on matters affecting trade between the Middle East and the UK and to help promote British exports to the region.





Its experts say that, significantly, Arab Funds' aid is untied.

"Since the Funds are also interested in co-financing with other international or bilateral aid agencies, they can provide an important addition to the financial packaging of a major project.

The Arab Funds will also finance feasibility studies and technical assistance programmes and are therefore in a position to assist with initial studies as well as with training. Most maintain their own lists of approved consultants, but they do not normally assume overall project control, leaving this to the recipient country."

Good news on remittances

LONDON — Remittances by expatriate Jordanian workers should remain steady to the end of the decade, British experts suggest. The semi-official Committee for Middle East Trade (Comet) says remittances will remain an important source of financing throughout the 1986-1990 Five Year Development Plan.

But its Middle East specialists warn: "Education and training programmes in Jordan must be revised and labour supply patterns must be altered if the level of remittances is to be maintained during the 1990s."

The Plan has considered in detail the need to reassess education and training needs at a time when Jordanian workers are returning from neighbouring Arab states. Total investment under the Plan is projected at JD 3,175 million (RS).

ICA members hold elections

AMMAN (Star) — The InterArab Cambist Association (ICA) has elected Abdullah Al-Dakhil of Kuwait's Burgan Bank as its new chairman. He succeeds Hani Ramadan of Beirut Riyad Bank for a three-year term.

At ICA's annaul general meeting three vice chairmen — Ezzedine Swaidan of Banque Internationale Arab De Tunis, Mohammad Osman of Societe Bancaire Du Liban, and Walid Nasouli of Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. of New York — were elected.

Ibrahim Bu Hindi of the Saudi National Commercial Bank in Bahrain and Imad Bata of Finance and Credit Corp. of Jordan were elected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The newly elected committee has agreed to hold its next general meetings in Istanbul and accepted the proposal of the Finance and Credit Corp. to hold its conference in Amman in 1989.

Representing the Kingdom in the ICA election meetings were: The Central Bank, Credit and Finance Corp., The Housing Bank, Petra Bank, and Jordan Investment and Finance Company.

- **CONSTRUCTION OF 24 school classrooms for Um Qais municipality — Irbid area. Tender documents are available at the municipality for JD 25. Closing date: 4 April 1987.**
- **TENDER NO. 3/87. Supply of electric materials for the Royal Air Force Directorate. Tender documents are available at the purchasing committee offices. Closing date : 4 April 1987.**
- **TENDER NO 3/87. Construction of health units in Zarqa for The Royal Engineering Force Directorate. Tender documents are available at the directorate for JD 10. Closing date: 12 April 1987.**
- **TENDER NO 10/87. Opening and paving of roads for Ma'an Work's Directorate. Tender documents are available at Ma'an Tenders Committee offices for JD 25. Closing date: 7 April 1987.**
- **TENDER NO 35/87. Soil boring at various parts of the Kingdom for The Royal Scientific Society. Tender documents are available at the society for JD 5. Closing date: 11 April 1987.**
- **TENDER NO 22/87. Supply of a teeth checking machine for the Royal Air Force Directorate. Tender documents are available at the Directorate's purchasing department. Closing date: 23 April 1987.**
- **SUPPLY OF computer papers for the Jordanian Co-operative Organization. Tender documents are available at the organization for JD 3. Closing date: 6 April 1987.**
- **TENDER NO 1/87. Supply of raw materials for carpets for the Syrian Jordanian Co. for Industry. Tender documents are available at the company's offices in Amman, Tel: 667411 for JD 10. Closing date: 11 April 1987.**
- **TENDER NO. 1/87. Construction of a concrete wall for Amman College for Engineering Vocations. Tender documents are available at the college for JD 15. Closing date: 13 April 1987.**
- **TENDER NO 28/87. Supply of uniforms for the Royal Scientific Society. Tender documents are available at the society for JD 5. Closing date: 4 April 1987.**
- **SUPPLY OF folding chairs for the Jordanian Armed Forces General Command-Training Directorate. Tender documents are available at the directorate. Closing date: 7 April 1987.**
- **CONSTRUCTION OF Stores for Al Husn municipality. Tender documents are avilable at the municipality for JD 20. Closing date: 5 April 1987.**
- **SUPPLY OF light units for Abu Obeidah and Al Balawnah village council — North valley area. Tender documents are available at the village council for JD 5. Closing date: 6 April 1987.**
- **SUPPLY OF steel office desks for the ministry of Health. Tender documents are available at the Supplies and Warehouses *Directorate in the compound of Al Bashir Hospital*, Closing date: 6 April 1987.**
- **SUPPLY OF filing and clothes cabinets, kerosene, diesel heaters, gas ovens, refrigerator and washing machines, irons, fans, fire extinguishers, sewing machines, magetic tapes, storage cabinets and kitchen utensils for the Public Security Directorate (PSD). Tender documents are available free against valid licenses from PSD, Tender Committee secretary. Closing date: 12 April 1987.**

The local scene

- **THE CABINET has approved the JEA budget for the current year 1987. According to the budget, revenues and expenditures are set at JD 81.5 million. The cabinet also finalized the JEA new job chart for the 1987 which resulted in the creation of around 58 new job opportunities.**
- **ACCORDING TO recent statistics issued by the Central Bank of Jordan, total commercial bank deposits at December 1986 reached JD 167.903 million. JD 102.090 million out of the total were compulsory deposits. The statistics also showed that the total deposits subject to notification reached JD 107.165 million, JD 60,915 million as compulsory deposits.**
- **THE CITIES and villages Development Bank of Jordan has granted *loans worth of JD 8.821 million to a number of* rural and municipal councils in the kingdom during 1987. The loans were granted for a number of roads, schools, public buildings, electricity and water projects.**
- **A FOUR-day seminar under the theme of "Development project designing" concluded its sessions last Wednesday at the Ministry of Planning. The seminar, held with the cooperation of USAID, was attended by engineers specialized in evaluating and following up developmental projects implemented in several ministries and governmental institutions.**

Faisal Abu Nuwar returns to Amman

• Sales manager of Holiday Inn hotels Amman and Aqaba Mr Faisal Abu Nuwar, returned from Kuwait after participating in Kuwait Tourism and Travel Exhibition 1987. Mr Abu Nuwar's visit came as part of the Holiday Inn hotels' programme to encourage Jordan touristic position in the Arab market in order to attract as much Arab citizens as possible to visit the Kingdom and enjoy a fine summer season.

Faisal Abu Nuwar

The strenuous efforts exerted by Holiday Inn hotels, the Royal Jordanian offices, Royal Tours, and the Universe Information Co. for Group Marketing, have greatly impressed tourism and travel agencies and companies in Kuwait as well as Jordanian and Arab communities living in Kuwait.

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Causeway drives up business

By Roderick Smith
Star UK Correspondent

LONDON — Bahraini businessmen and hoteliers enjoyed a consumer boom during the first three months of operation of the US $600 million causeway link with Saudi Arabia.

The King Fahad Causeway was opened shortly before the island's silver jubilee celebrations on 16 December amid predictions it would help reverse the decline in prosperity caused by the slump in world oil prices.

All during the three-year construction period Bahraini officials hoped the initial economic boost of US $100 million spent in the island by contractors Ballast Needham would be sustained by free-spending visiting Saudis mostly from the Eastern Province.

They expected cars from Saudi Arabia to flood in daily, especially at weekends, to add to the 94,000-odd Bahraini vehicles already criss-crossing Manama's streets. But the immediate response from Saudi Arabia's 12 million-plus population exceeded even the most optimistic expectations.

On the first Wednesday and Thursday the King Fand Causeway opened more than 8,600 cars ferried nearly 30,000 people in both directions.

The long queues that were, initially, reported at customs and immigration facilities have, according to authorities, been eradicated.In February it coped with a peak daily average of 1,991 cars crossing in both directions.

Ibrahim Al-Muhammed Al-Saja, Director-General of King Fahd Causeway, said: "It takes a car driver only 15 minutes to complete immigration procedures and traffic police discharge their duties efficiently to ensure continuous smooth flow of traffic."

Bahrain has also enjoyed the stimulus of a large number of visitors from outside Eastern province.

Hotel managers and traders have been pleased with the increase in business.

Much of the favourable opinion was summed up by Mr Peter Burfoot, general manager, Middle East and South Asia for Standard Chartered Bank, who said: "The Causeway is a much needed shot in the arm. I see a major strengthening of the property market as a direct result.

"More money will be ploughed into circulation, Saudis will be looking to acquire holiday homes in Bahrain, and tourism, in its strictest sense, will also attract money and help enhance Bahrain's service industry."

Bahrain, with a population of just 400,000 and lacking the oil, mineral and natural gas resources of richer neighbours, is sparing no effort to develop the island as a regional tourist centre.

Bahrain's Minister of Information Tariq Almoayed describes the opening of the 25 km-long causeway as an effective psychological boost to the morale of the business community in Bahrain.

The Minister sees the island becoming a regional tourist centre for the whole Gulf.

Bahrain is beautifying beaches and building chalets and public gardens. Families are seen as the best potential market for Bahrain's tourism industry.

One new attraction is at Al Jasrah, the birthplace of the Amir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa. Experts spent months restoring the simple white house, built in 1907, to how it looked when the Amir was born on 3, July 1933.

Lacking the oil and gas resources of neighbours such as Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain is also giving priority to developing its role as a regional and international financial centre.

Bahrain established its reputation as a tax-free banking haven in the oil boom years of the later 1970s benefitting from an exodus of international banks from war-torn Lebanon.

But, as world oil prices slumped and the economic downturn hit the Arab Gulf region, some banks pulled out. Bahrain has cut telex and telephone charges to make the island cheaper to operate in as well as pushing forward plans for a stock market.

Bahrain Bankers' Society chairman, Mr Iqbal Mamdani, said: "Bahrain cannot imitate London and say 'we are going to be as big a capital market centre.' But, with the development of a stock market in Bahrain, the financing need of corporates will require more specialized skills."

Falling oil revenues forced Bahrain to drastically revise downwards its original Bahraini Dinars 1,000 million (US $380 million) fiscal year budget for 1986 and 1987 amid concern that the government is currently subsidizing public services to the tune of 54 per cent. Officials now have strong evidence that the greater volume of visitors is helping to make public services more cost-effective.

Traders are certainly reporting an increased turnover, and benefits are not all one way. Bahrainis are also buying luxury items, and fruit and vegetables, on trips to Saudi Arabia.

Causeway officials, anxious to eliminate delays, are reminding visitors that cars entering Bahrain have to be insured. They also point out that the practice of stopping to take pictures is dangerous and that the 80 kmph special limit should not be exceeded.

They have partly overcome delays by extending opening hours sometimes into 2 a.m. in the morning, to carry out formalities.

King Fahd Causeway has, it is commonly agreed, also brought encouragement to sectors other than the hoteliers and retailers.

An example was given by Bahraini Finance Minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim who said: "The recent opening of the King Fahd Causeway illustrates the spirit of co-operation between Arab Gulf Co-operation Council members and, in due course, the banking community in Bahrain should derive benefit."

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, along with the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, Kuwait and Qatar, are the six AGCC members.

The causeway, the first land union between the kingdom and Bahrain, is a concrete symbol of ongoing moves to co-ordinate ACC resources.

It has also given Bahrain a much-needed economic uplift.

By Ahmed Shaker

• In order to preserve the Kingdom's forests, the government is to purchase a special plane for the controlling of forest fires and to supply forest guards with wireless telephones to report any fire incidents promptly.

• Studies are underway to specify the responsibilities of the Social Security Corporation and expanding its coverage to include retired citizens while the Pension Fund will only tackle investment projects affairs and its name will be changed to "The Public Investments Corporation."

• The government is to establish a national museum project in Amman at an estimated cost of JD 2.5 million. Assistance of the London and Louvre museums will be sought in the design of the museum.

• The Royal Scientific Society is conducting a study on the establishment of an early alarm system against radiation risks expected from the Israeli nuclear reactor in Dimona.

• The Royal Scientific Society is conducting a study on the generation of solar energy to be used for road lighting in remote villages.

• The government has decided to re-consider the profitability of growing sugar beet in the kingdom and allocate a plot of land in the Jordan Valley for beet growing experiments with the co-operation of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan and the Ministry of Agriculture.

• Studies are underway on establishing a project for the processing of agricultural products and the manufacturing of juices, frozen vegetables, and canned pickles.

• A Jordanian delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture will be soon head to Cairo to discuss the possibility of establishing a joint Jordanian-Egyptian shareholding company for fishing. The company is to be authorized to fish off Egyptian waters in the Red Sea.

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The registration will last on Sunday 5 April 1987 and the courses will start on Monday 6 April 1987.

For information please contact the library of the Centre, telephone 636445.

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Tender's Notice

The Directorate of Projects/Ministry of Education announces the issuing of the following tenders which are part of the sixth Educational project No. 2378-JO, sponsored by the World Bank:

Tender's No	Title	Fees J.D
10/87	General Furniture	15.000
11/87	Library Furniture	10.000
12/87	Lab-Furniture	10.000
13/87	General Laboratories	15.000
14/87	Office Equipment	10.000
15/87	Sport Equipment	10 000
16/87	Audio Visual Aids	15.000
17/87	General Vocational/ W/Shops	15.000
18/87	Women Education W/Shops	15.000
19/87	Arts and Craft	5.000

Interested bidders are invited to collect tenders documents from procurement Division at the Directorate of projects/ Ministry of Education, starting April 4, 1987 against the payment of the above fees.

Closing date will be 10.00 A.M. of June 14, 1987.

Director of Projects

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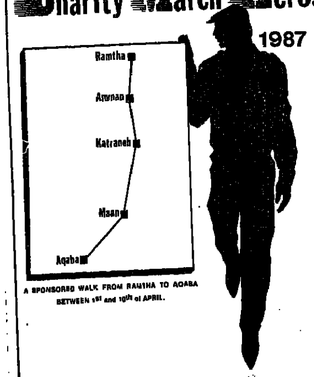

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Currencies Period	US $	DM	FF	SF	D Fls	Yen	Sterling Pound
1 M	6 1/2	3 13/16	8 7/16	3 5/16	5 7/16	3 5/16	10 1/16
2 M	6 1/2	3 7/8	8 7/16	3 5/16	5 7/16	3 5/16	10
3 M	6 9/16	3 7/8	8 7/16	3 5/16	5 7/16	3 5/16	10
6 M	6 9/16	3 7/8	8 7/16	3 3/4	5 7/16	3 5/16	9 15/16
9 M	6 11/16	4	8 1/2	3 13/16	5 7/16	3 5/16	9 7/8
12 M	6 3/4	4	8 1/2	3 13/16	5 7/16	3 5/16	9 3/4
2 Years	7	4 1/4	—	—	—	—	—
3 Years	7 5/16	4 5/8	—	—	—	—	—
4 Years	7 1/2	5	—	—	—	—	—
5 Years	7 3/4	5 1/4	—	—	—	—	—

Source: Finance and Credit Corporation

GOLD IN JORDAN

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Wednesday 1 April, 1987 were as follows:

18 ct. JD 3.550 per gramme
21 ct. JD 4.100 per gramme
24 ct. JD 4.850 per gramme
One kilogramme (9999) JD 4,685
Ounce..... JD 151.000
Gold Sterling.. JD 34.000 (Central Bank)
Rashadi Pound.... JD 30.000 (Seven grammes)

Source: Yousif Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman.

EXCHANGE RATES

	buy	sell
US dollar	.337	.339
Sterling pound	.540	.545
German mark	.186	.187
French franc	.0545	.0555
Swiss franc	.221	.223
Dutch guilder	.163	165
Italian lira (1000)	.260	.264
Swedish kroner	.051	.053
Saudi riyal	.0898	.09025
Kuwaiti dinar	1.227	1.233
UAE dirham	.0916	.0920
Egyptian pound	.157	.165
Syrian lira	.0128	.0130
Iraqi dinar	.275	.2725
Omani riyal	.8725	.8750

Source: National Jordan Exchange Company

Dollar up, gold down

LONDON (AP) — Higher US interest rates and Central-Bank intervention helped push the dollar up against most major currencies in early trading Wednesday. Gold bullion prices fell.

In Tokyo, the dollar edged up to 146.90 Japanese yen, from Tuesday's close of 145.65 yen. Later Wednesday, the dollar was quoted at 146.70 yen in London.

The dollar's close in Tokyo Tuesday was its lowest level against the yen since modern exchange rates were set in the late 1940s.

Traders in Tokyo said the bank of Japan bought dollars on the open market for a seventh consecutive day to prevent the US currency from falling further against the yen.

Later Wednesday, traders said the dollar was helped in Europe by unconfirmed rumours that the US federal reserve had intervened Tuesday with dollar purchases against the yen.

The dollar also was lifted by announcements that two New York banks, Citibank and Chase Manhattan, were raising their prime lending rates to 7 3/4 per cent from 7 1/2 per cent. Traders said the moves could foreshadow a general rise in US interest rates, which would make the dollar a more attractive investment.

Midmorning dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Tuesday:

— 1.8190 West German Marks, up from 1.8095
— 1.5185 Swiss Francs, up from 1.5115
— 6.0445 French Francs, up from 6.0195
— 2.0517 Dutch Guilders, up from 2.0415
— 1,294.50 Italian Lire, up from 1,287.50
— 1.3059 Canadian Dollars, down from 1.3099

The British pound was quoted at $1.6205 unchanged from its rate in London late Tuesday.

London's five biggest bullion houses fixed a recommended gold price at midmorning of $418.50 a troy ounce, down from $420.50 late Tuesday.

In Zurich, the metal was bid at $18.10, down from $419.50.

Earlier, in Hong Kong, gold closed at a bid of $419.25 down from $419.31.

Silver bullion was quoted in London at a bid of $6.25 an ounce, up from $6.23.

Gulf Investment Corp in new projects

ABU DHABI (Opecna) — the Gulf Investment Corporation, an affiliate of the six- nation Gulf co-operation council (GCC), is to participate in nine new projects in the region at a total cost of $775 million.

The corporation, which achieved a $70 million profit in 1986, has also invited the private sector to take part in the ventures, according to a report prepared for GCC finance and economy ministers.

Encouraging private sector participation in Gulf Arab states is believed to be high on the agenda of the ministers' meeting as part of the organizations' stated policy of achieving economic integration.

According to the report, the corporation's assets increased by 35 per cent to reach $1.3 billion last year, against just over one billion in 1985.

Over the same period, net profits rose from $57 million to $70 million.

The report said the corporation had studied the economic feasibility of nearly 70 investment opportunities since its establishment with an authorized capital of $3.1 billion and paid-up capital of $540 million.

The body is equally-owned by the six GCC members, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar.

Market maintains its activity

By Mamdouh El Ghaly
Star Financial Market Analyst

THE MARKET is still witnessing very active dealings and speculations. Shares of banks and financial companies suffered a low demand while those of industrial companies enjoyed a substantial rising demand and registered unprecedented share price increase.

4,360,000 shares were handled at the market value of JD 7,658,000 divided among 4,700 contracts, a decrease of 6.6 per cent compared to last week.

The daily handling average came to JD 1,571,000 with a deviation of 20 per cent or 4 per cent of total around this average, thus indicating instability at the market.

The shares of 57 companies were handled from which 34 companies gained including:

1- Intermediary Petrochemical Industries	closing at JD 1.120 up from JD .850
2- National Portfolio	closing at JD .800 up from JD.610
3- Jordan Rockwool Industry	closing at JD .550 up from JD .430
4- Jordan Silvochemicals Co.	closing at JD 3.900 up from JD 3.100
5- Arab Aluminium	closing at JD 2.020 up from JD 1.670

13 companies lost including:

1- Bank of Jordan	closing at JD 18.300 down from JD 19.300
2- Jordan Lime & Bricks	closing at JD .360 down from JD .380
3- Arab Pharmaceutical	closing at JD 2.040 down from JD 2.120

10 companies had no change in their share values.

In the over-the-counter market, more than 527,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 275,000.

Trading in the regular market was distributed among the sectors according to the following percentages:

Sectors	Market share	Last week's share
Banks	9.1%	49%
Industry	87.1%	42.5%
Services	1.4%	1.8%
Insurance	2.1%	6.7%

Prominent firms whose shares were traded by sector

	Share in section	Share in market
Banks (out of 17 traded)		
1- Finance & Credit	[illegible]	1.1%
2- Arab Bank Ltd	[illegible]	1.8%
Industrials (out of 10 traded)		
1- Jordan Silvochemicals	41.8%	36.5%
2- Arab Aluminium Industry	21.6%	18.9%
3- National Steel Industry	14.7%	12.8%
4- Intermediary Petrochemical Industry	9.2%	8%
5- Ala Adin Industries	4%	3.5%
Services (out of 6 traded)		
1- Arab International Hotels	36.1 %	.5%
2- Dar Al Sha'b Press & Publishing co	30.4%	.4%
Insurance (out of 24 traded)		
1- Jordan French Insuracne Co	61.9%	1.3%

WEEKLY AVERAGE

Dates	Banks	Insurance	Services	Industries	Average
24/3	+.5%	+.1%	-.6%	+.6%	+.5
25/3	Zero	-.2%	-.7%	+.3%	Zero
28/3	+.2%	-1.7%	-.2%	+.6%	Zero
29/3	+1.3%	-.8%	+.8%	+.2%	+1.5%
30/3	+.2%	+.1%	+5.1%	+4.1%	+1.8%
Total	—	—	—	—	+3.8%

Palestinians stage Land Day demonstrations

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian merchants shuttered their shops in Jerusalem and the West Bank and youths hurled stones and burned tires in scattered demonstrations Monday to mark the 11th annual protest against Israel's occupation and land expropriation policy.

Two Israelis and one Palestinian were injured and at least a dozen Palestinians were taken into custody, according to the Israeli army and the Palestine press service, which monitors news in the occupied territories.

On Tuesday Israeli sources disclosed that a big number of demonstrations were staged throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as Arab citizens observed the eleventh anniversary of the Land Day. Angry young men at Balata refugee camp clashed with israeli army patrols and border guards using rocks and empty bottles. Tear gas bombs and rubber bullets were fired to disperse the demonstrators of whom two were wounded and taken to Rafidia Hospital for treatment. The sources added that a curfew was placed on Tul Karim refugee camp following violent demonstrations staged by the inhabitants of the camp. Similar incidents have also occured at Al Amari, Dhaishah, Qalandia, Jabalia, and other refugee camps which were put under all day and all night curfews.

In Occupied Jerusalem, Arab school children set fire to tires, blocked the roads with huge rocks, and stoned the Israeli policemen and soldiers Israeli sources disclosed that a total of 469 citizens including women and school girls from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were detained on the Land Day alone.

The annual protests, known as Land Day, began on 30 March, 1976 among Israeli Arabs protesting the expropriation of land by government authorities for Jewish settlement. Israeli soldiers killed six Arabs during the demonstration.

Since then, the 700,000 Arabs who live in Israel and the 1.4 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have held annual protests against the Israeli occupation and the second-class status given to Israeli Arabs.

On Monday, defiant Palestinian youths raised the outlawed flag of the Palestine Liberation Organization and chanted pro-PLO slogans in towns and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Some 70 per cent of the 75,000 Palestinians who normally work in Israel each day refused to go to their jobs, taking to the streets instead, the Palestine press service said.

They plied stones in the middle of some roads to block traffic and set tires afire, sending thick black smoke billowing over some neighbourhoods.

Early Monday morning, unidentified vandals broke into the Rehavia High School in mainly Jewish West Jerusalem and painted "Death to the Jews", and "Palestine will be liberated" on the walls, city police said.

The army dispatched extra patrols, fired tear gas and rubber bullets at demonstrators and sent armoured vehicles into Nablus, the largest city in the West Bank, according to the army and the Palestine press service.

Two injuries were reported in the West Bank and a third in the coastal Gaza Strip. At the Askar refugee camp north of Jerusalem an Arab was injured when stones were thrown at the bus he was driving, and in El Bireh a uniformed soldier who was a passenger in a civilian car was struck by a rock, the army reported.

In the Gaza Strip, 18-year-old Jamil Yusef Abed was taken to the hospital after a bullet fired by an Israeli soldier grazed the side of his head, the Palestine press service reported.

Israeli soldiers question and search a youth in Jerusalem

Former US President Jimmy Carter jogs in the streets around the Old City in Jerusalem

Syria's arms race with Israel

AMMAN (Star) — Syria's aggressive expansion of its armed forces has sparked an arms race with Israel that may well lead to a war, according to a leading analyst of the Mideast military balance, the Christian Science Monitor reported last week.

Such a war would probably be more intense but just as inconclusive as the fighting between the two countries that followed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, says Antony Cordesman, vice-president of Eaton Analytical Assessments, in a new book.

During the last four years Syria has increased the size of its Army by 50 per cent. Counting reserves, it now number 540,000 men, more than twice the size of the active-duty United States Marine Corps.

According to Mr Cordesman's figures, since 1982 Syria has also received between two and three times as many arms shipments as Israel did during the same period...

Cordesman claims that Syria has also recently begun deploying Soviet SS-23 surface-to-surface missiles. These weapons have the range to strike anywhere in Israel and the accuracy to be aimed at targets as small as an airfield, or the Israeli nuclear reactor at Dimona.

Syria's armed forces still have many problems, however ... its high command suffers from the inflexibility and politicization that have always dogged Arab militaries, concludes Cordsman in his book "The Arab-Israeli Military Balance and the Art of Operations," published by the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research.

Israeli military planners in the past four years have been emphasizing force modernization, not expansion.

Experience in the invasion of Lebanon has convinced Israeli generals that their native Merkava tank is superior to US-made M-60s, and, as a result, they are pushing to expand Merkava production as much as possible. Though fighter jets are still king in the elite Israeli Air Force, helicopter forces are receiving new emphasis — 42 AH-I Cobra attack copters are now in service.

Israel's Navy and its strategic bomber force are being upgraded to give the nation an ability to strike deep against an aggressor without using ground forces.

Cordesman speculates, however, that the rising cost of maintaining large conventional forces may force Israel to say out loud something that many analysts assume — that it has nuclear weapons and is prepared to use them if its existence as a nation is threatened.

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Palestine Insight

- Diplomatic contacts between the Soviet Union and Israel are picking up again. During the last few months a number of meetings took place in European capitals and in New York. According to Israeli officials the main topic of discussion centred on the future Israeli-Soviet relations. Middle Eastern sources said Moscow is trying to reach a formula where by it "normalizes" its relation with Tel Aviv without having to anger its Arab allies by restoring diplomatic relations, which the Soviet Union severed in 1967.

The Israelis on the other hand, have insisted that Moscow displays a more relaxed policy on the emigration of Russian Jews from the Soviet Union before relations could warm up. In addition Israeli negotiators have made it clear that the Soviet Union can expect no role in the international peace conference if Moscow does not resume diplomatic relations with Israel. According to a senior Arab official "if Moscow's decision to re-instate full diplomatic relations with Israel comes within the international peace conference package, then not even the Syrians would be dismayed."

- A Knesset intelligence sub-committee chaired by Abba Eban and in charge of investigating the Israeli government's role in the Pollard affair, is questioning the authenticity of three senior Israeli officials' statements before the committee. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin are said to have delivered statements which contradicted testimonies given later by Rafael Etan and Col. Aviem Sella. The discrepancies have to do with the involvement of senior Israeli officials in what Israel described as a "rouge" espionage operation. Sources said that the committee is disturbed about what seemed to be pre-session rehearsal by Shamir, Peres and Rabin of their accounts and responses.

- The fate of the Israeli coalition government is hanging in the air according to Israeli officials in the aftermath of the Herut Party convention. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir consolidated his grip over the leadership of the party by badly defeating his contestant Moshe Levy. Shamir's supporters, Ariel Sharon and Moshe Arens, also secured their influence over the day-to-day running of the party's affairs. With problems shrouding the Herut Party now disappearing, observers believe Mr Shamir will not work to undermine Mr Shimon Peres and his Labour Party before dissolving the coalition government and calling for general elections. At the same time, Labour leaders are preparing for their own show of strength while contemplating the idea of elections.

According to Labour officials, their party has a good chance of defeating Herut (including Likud) if they run in a general election in May. Independent observers believe the Israeli public is still divided over the international peace conference idea and that such division will weaken each party's chances of receiving the needed majority to form Israel's next government.

- Israeli sources disclosed that foreign minister Shimon Peres has decided to assign his political advisor Namroud Noubik as an ambassador to Washington next June replacing the present ambassador Mier Rosin who will end his service in May.

- TEL AVIV (AP) - The second prototype of the Lavi, a controversial locally designed jet fighter, made a successful maiden flight Monday, Israel radio reported.

The Lavi-2 was in the air for 50 minutes and flew at an altitude of 6,000 metres and a speed of up to 350 knots, the radio said, adding that developers of the plane tested its fuel backup and flight monitor systems and checked performance at various speeds.

Israel is under strong American pressure to terminate the Lavi project. The Pentagon, which mostly finances the project, has urged Israel to replace the Lavi with an American aircraft because of its prohibitive costs.

According to the Lavi flight programme, five prototypes of the plane are scheduled to be built over the next three-and-a-half years. But the government is due to decide in May whether to scrap the entire project, the daily Haaretz reported Sunday.

A military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sunday that a parliamentary committee has approved only a six-month budget for the Lavi because of its uncertain fate.

Record

Prince Hassan on education

• His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan last Sunday stressed that the educational process should be an integrated process for providing the community with its needs of well trained young men and women, particularly as Jordan witnesses presently a problem of unemployment where the unemployed are either untrained or decline to engage in manual labour. Addressing a meeting of educationists directors of schools and education departments at the Comprehensive School for Boys in Zarqa, Prince Hassan urged the public to help the Ministry of Education finance the education process in Jordan, and said that education should have national priority because of its far reaching effects on future generation.

Princess Sarvath graduates trainees

• Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath has attended a graduation ceremony for the first batch of students from the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA) Centre for Special Education, which provides education to handicapped children and helps them find employment in the private and public institutions. Princess Sarvath distributed diplomas to the 22 graduates in the presence of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid, Princess Majida, Minister of Labour and Social Development, the Minister of education and graduates' relatives.

Prince Abdullah at Mu'tah University

• His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein last Saturday visited Mu'tah University where he met with the president, Dr Ali Mahafza and His assistants and commanders of the military and police faculties. Later, the Prince toured the university's various installations and visited the laboratories, the library and the engineering workshops.

Al Israa wal Mi'raj day

• Jordan, with the Arab and Muslim World last Thursday celebrated Al Israa wal Mi'raj day with religious ceremonies in mosques throughout the Kingdom. The main celebration was held at the new Maghira Ibn Shuaba mosque on independence street, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, who inaugurated the new mosque. The minister of Awqaf of Islamic Affairs addressed the worshippers on the need for liberating Al Aqsa Mosque from Israeli rule.

The worshippers included His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Zaid Ibn Shaker and a number of Cabinet ministers.

Her Majesty Queen Noor at the women's centre in the Jordan Valley

Prime Minister meets students

• The Prime Minister Zaid Rifai last Sunday met some students from the University of Jordan's various faculties who have distinguished themselves excellently in the respective academic performances. Later on Mr Rifai visited the faculty of Science and Technology and was received by University President Abdul Salam Al Majali and his deans.

Spanish message on basic freedom

• The Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi last Sunday received a statement from the Spanish Senate issued on the 20th anniversary of the approval by the UN General Assembly of the International Agreement on Civilian Rights and Basic Freedoms. The statement urged all countries to sign the international document which guarantees the freedom and civil rights of all nations and upholds human rights and basic principles on co-existence and international co-operation.

Canadian agric team visit

• A team of Canadian agricultural experts has conferred with Dr Salem Al Lawzi, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, to discuss possible agricultural co-operation between Jordan and Canada. Dr Lawzi, who outlined Jordan's agricultural policy said that it aims at helping to achieve economic integration among Arab states and food security in the Arab World. The Canadian team is visiting Jordan at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture and will be briefed on Jordan's agricultural experiments.

Cabinet to implement directives

• The government has decided on a number of measures to improve the conditions of the municipal and village councils in the Kingdom and to enable them to carry out their public service and projects. A statement issued last Tuesday after a Cabinet session said that in the implementation of directives by His Majesty King Hussein, the Cabinet studied measures and took several decisions for improving financial, technical and administrative conditions of municipalities and village councils in Jordan. A total of 174 municipal councils and 375 village councils are to benefit.

Loan for hospital equipment

• Jordan is to be granted a 10 million mark loan from West Germany to help in financing the expansion of an X-ray unit at the King Hussein Medical Centre. This is part of West German capital assistance programme for Jordan originally scheduled for 1986. The agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Taher Kana'an and a representative of the West German Development Bank.

JGIF on export drive

• According to Mr Farhi Obeid, chairman of the Jordan Glass Industries Factory (JGIF), the company has finalized contracts to sell its total production for 1987, estimated at 25,000 tonnes, with Saudi Arabia purchasing 8,000 tonnes, Egypt 5,000 tonnes and North Yemen 2,500 tonnes, while the remainder will be marketed in Jordan. He said that the government has agreed to increase the company's capital by JD 2 million which will be raised through contributions

Ajloun hospital reopened

• The Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh last Wednesday patronized the re-opening of the Baptist Hospital in Ajloun, which was recently purchased by the Ministry of Health for JD 500,000. Dr Hamzeh said that the hospital will hire more staff and will make use of the excellent equipment already at the hospital. The inauguration ceremony included the distribution of royal medals to veteran hospital workers.

Fast delivery mail

A fast mail delivery serivce between Jordan and the US via regular flights of the Royal Jordanian airline became operational last Friday. The number of Arab and foreign countries included in the service is now 19. These countries are: Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, the UK, W. Germany, France, Austria, Taiwan, the Netherlands, Greece, Japan, Cyprus and the US.

Documentary on tourist attractions

• The Ministry of Tourism has invited European journalists and television crews to prepare documentaries on the landmarks of Jordan as part of the ministry's efforts to promote and market Jordanian attractions abroad. An Austrian television crew is currently filming Wadi Rum area and a programme on mountaineering there. The Ministry of Tourism has invited Mr Donnie Scott, a very well-known British mountain climber, to visit Wadi Rum, accompanied by a senior editor of "The Climber" magazine who will write features about Wadi Rum area.

Generative energy needs to be correctly applied

By Ibtisam Dababneh
Special to The Star

THE PAN-Arab Solar Energy Standards Committee concluded its three-day meeting last week after discussing several important topics. Dr Omar Issa, of the Arab Organization of Standardization and Meteorology (ASMO) said that papers were presented on nine projects in the meeting which was attended for the first time by representatives from nine Arab countries and seven Arab organizations specialized in the energy field. These countries are: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, Lebanon, Tunis, Morocco and Sudan.

Dr Issa pointed out that the committee examined and adopted solar standard projects including solar heating systems for domestic utilization, heat conservation tanks and the auxiliary items; the solar heating system, terminology units and the definition of solar heating systems. Other topics tackled were, specifications of solar power.

Dr Issa explained that the technical committee was established in 1982 by the ASMO and started, since its inception to establish standards for solar plate collectors which consists of six parts. They considered the appropriate Arab solar standards, which have so far been adopted by certain Arab countries among which is Jordan. He spoke about the committee's forthcoming plans which are to examine and adopt solar photo voltaic cells important for transfering solar energy directly into electric energy. "A working programme will be put out by this committee within the next two years," Dr Issa added.

He further added that the ASMO and the Arab Organization of Education, Culture and Science (AECSO) co-operates and co-ordinates in the field of energy. In this regard, Dr Issa said that AESCO supports financially, certain programmes involved in standards for solar energy. To achieve the committe's objectives, the Jordan Standardization Department at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, is now the technical secretariat for the Arab Solar Committee. These parties work together with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in a way to benefit from solar power and its applications.

Referring to the fact that Jordan is one of the first countries in the Arab World which uses solar energy domestically, Dr Issa said that the Kingdom is also the only nation in the whole Middle East with a simulator unit. He believes that solar panels produced locally are competitive only in prices, but not in quality. He added that the Jordanian market has a surplus of locally manufactured solar panels; rather unfortunately, most of these were produced without taking the Arab standards into consideration, despite the fact that the RSS conducts an exclusive test on all solar panels produced.

Dr Issa on the other hand, spoke about the percentage which Jordan hopes to achieve if all sources of "generating energy" like solar, wind and others are correctly used and commonly used.

This figure could take 8-10 per cent of the country's total energy bill, compared to the present percentage of 1-2, according to the Ministry of Energy's statistics. However, the expected eight per cent, Dr Issa explained, can be achieved only through encouraging citizens about the importance of using solar energy thus saving and reducing fuel consumption.

Marking Land Day anniversary

By Wafa Abdel Hamid
Special to The Star

ELEVEN YEARS ago, on 30 March, 1976, Palestine witnessed one of the largest demonstrations and uprisings in the history of its peoples' struggle against the seizure of their land.

On Land Day, thousands of Palestinians, from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Galilee, and all villages and towns marched to resist Israeli aggression and to regain their usurped land. It is the day they expressed their deeply rooted desire to liberate Palestine from the unjust, harsh Israeli measures to evict them from their homeland.

The series of stormy uprisings began in 1975 after the Israeli occupation authorities announced the Galilee development project with the object of altering the demographic situation prevailing between Arabs and Jews in favour of the latter through the establishment of Jewish settlements. The plan aimed at setting up eight Jewish industrial villages which require the seizure of extra Arab land in Galilee and the confiscation of 20,000 dunums of Arab Land. The real motive behind these measures, however was to increase the number of Jewish settlers in Galilee and to build new settlements.

In 1974 Arabs, constituted more than 47 per cent of occupied Palestine's northern area, a rate above that of 1961 which was 42 per cent of the whole population. In 1979, the Arab population numbered 300,000.

The Palestinians rejected the Israeli expansionist plan on 29 July, 1975 by forming a committee of mayors, doctors, lawyers and others to defend the land and resist the enemy; to abort all measures designed to perpetuate Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. The Israelis however tightened their grip in the face of the Arab resistance. They made use of troops and armoured vehicles in the occupied territories to supress the citizens. They also closed shops, schools and universities in order to thwart Palestinian attempts to regain their usurped land. For their land, the Palestinian people sacrificed their souls and lives to resist the Israeli occupational measures.

Land Day is an occasion to remind everybody that Palestine was occupied, and still is under occupation; that the Arab-Israeli conflict is centered on the Holy Land; that Palestinians have suffered and struggled long to maintain their land, their homes and identity in the face of the cruel Israeli attempts to uproot them and to erase their national identity.

On this annual occasion, there is an urgent need to unite and support the common cause; the determination to continue standing up against oppression, injustice and brutality, and to continue the struggle to liberate the land

Racing event with a Royal touch

Participants slugging it out at the start

By Hamdan Al Hajj
Star Staff Writer

PRINCE RA'AD Bin Zaid, the Chief Chamberlain, and President of the Jordan Handicapped Sports Federation, last Friday led about 1,000 participants in Sports for Race. It was organized by the Jordanian Sports Information Association under the patronage of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who was represented for by Dr Eid Daheyyat, Minister of Youth.

The race covered a distance of five kilometres and started from the main gate of the Hitteen Community College in Wihdat ending at Al-Hashimeyya Forum down town.

Prince Ra'ad, pleased with the enthusiasm displayed commented: "We wish this to be a constant annual event which should be promoted everywhere in the Kingdom, with the participation of more people. He called on the citizens to learn the lesson of determination from the 10-year-old boy, Yazen who inspite of his age, did all he could to finish the race.

'I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to the Sports Association for its esteemed efforts in organizing such an important event,' Prince Ra'ad added.

The results for female participants are as follows:

• Mayyadah Abdul Samad Nazik was the winner for those below 15 years of age.

• Maha Hirzallah won the first position in the below 20 years race.

• Ra'edah Bader won the first place for those over 20 years.

The male results were:

• Mohammad Madhi was the first for below 10 years.

• Mahmoud Kamal collected the prize for those below 15 years.

• Awwad Abou Saris was the first for participants below 20 years.

• Khalid Al Bariqi for those below 30 years.

• Abdullah Al Jabour for men below 40 years.

• Uqlah Al-Masri for those below 50 years and Ali Ramadan Saleh for people over 50 years.

Apart from the winners, prizes were also presented to:

• Dr Eid Daheyyat, Minister of Youth

• Mr Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, Mayor of Greater Amman

• Dr Muwaffaq Al-Fawwaz, General Secretary of Jordan Olympic Committee.

• Mr Issam Aridah, Director General of Radio Jordan.

• Mr Nasouh Mohyeddin, Director of Amman Governorate police.

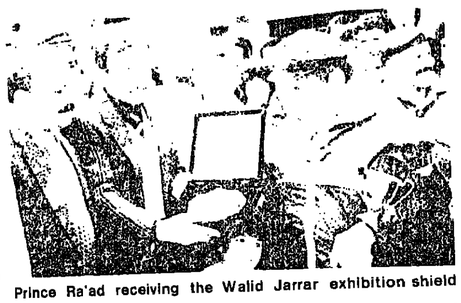
• Dr Abdul Rahim Aref, Principal of Hitteen college.

• Mr Mohammad Jamil Abdul Qader, President of Sports Information Association.

• Mr Awwad Haddad, President of the Basketball Federation.

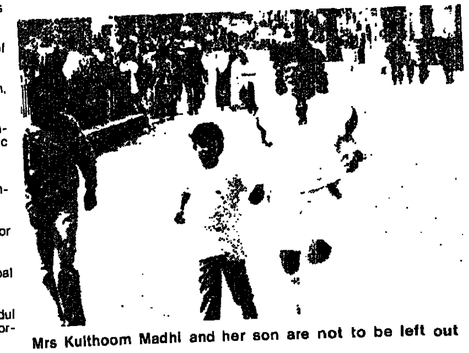
• Mr Fadi Ghandour, Director General of Aramex Company.

Prince Ra'ad with the cup of participation



Prince Ra'ad receiving the Walid Jarrar exhibition shield

Cup for the winner of under 10-year old

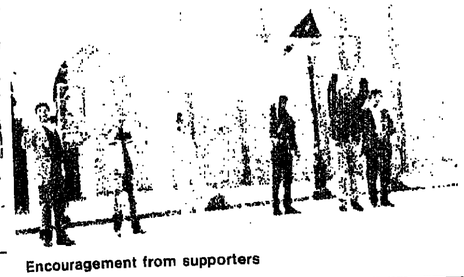


Mrs Kulthoom Madhi and her son are not to be left out

Minister of Youth offers prize to a female winner

Winner of the above 50 years participants

Age was not a handicap



Encouragement from supporters

Medical treatment leads to sextuplet birth

By Najwa Kefay
Special to The Star

A UNIQUE case in parturition took place in Jordan this week, when a 25-year-old woman gave birth to six infants, four girls and two boys.

The delivery which occurred last Friday was carried out by gynaecologist Dr Maher Sarraf, under emergency conditions while the delivery room at the Al Amal Maternity Hospital was stacked with emergency equipment, incubators, blood and oxygen in addition to approximately 12 doctors and nurses and other medical staff.

In an exclusive interview with The Star, Dr. Sarraf said that this was an extremely rare kind of conception, (this case being only the sixth in the world) due to the hormonal treatment in cases of infertility.

According to Dr Sarraf, this lady was given four courses, (for a period of four months) of gonadotrophic hormone, which activates the ovaries after she had been suffering from an unovulatory cycle for two years since her marriage.

In general, Dr Sarraf said, multiple pregnancies could occur as a result of this treatment. But, he added, that ever since this treatment was practised in medicine, many cases of twins and triplets have occured, though scarcely any sextuplets, such as this one, which, in normal cases happens only once in every three million births.

When asked what characterized this unique pregnancy from any other normal one Dr Sarraf said: "In these cases we have to watch the mother very closely and continuously, because she is liable to have eclampsia (convulsions during pregnancy and high blood pressure), or placenta previa (bleeding). In addition to that we have to expect an early delivery, because the more babies the mother carries, the earlier the delivery, as it gets more difficult for the uterus to accommodate the growing bodies inside it."

Apparently in this case, the mother whose name she refused to disclose, was admitted into hospital one week before the delivery.

The sextuplets hours after they were born

Dr Maher Sarraf

"She was then six and a half months pregnant and I wanted to delay the delivery as long as possible, so I admitted her, hoping that in the hospital, with proper attention and care, I could delay the delivery, but she started bleeding one week later and delivery had to take place then."

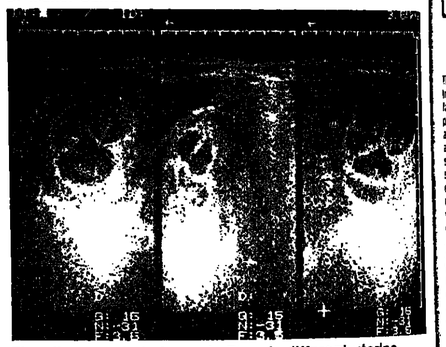
The six babies who consisted of four girls and two boys, their weights ranging between 750-900 grammes, were all polyzygotic, i.e. from six different ova and of six different placentas, and their mother, up to the point of delivery was carrying a minimum of eight kilogrammes in her uterus, which is twice as much as a normal pregnant woman in her ninth month.

Asked about the complications during delivery Dr Sarraf said "Everything ran smoothly throughout the caesarian operation, except for two things. One was that after delivering the first two babies, things got complicated in trying to give priority to delivering the other four, which were intertwined with each other, and we were short of time. The second was a slight uterine bleeding as it is difficult for the uterus to contract to its normal size after leaving expanded to that extent, and this relaxation of the uterus causes bleeding. But, of course we were prepared to face such a problem, and now the mother is in very good condition physically and will be able to conceive again in five months' time."

As it turned out, the babies, were not as fortunate as the mother, none of them have survived but this is not unusual, as most of these babies have very little chance of survival, anyway.

Although the parents feel sad about their loss, they have a brighter hope ahead of them and that is, a normal pregnancy for the future with out any hormonal treatment. That was what Dr Sarraf told them, and which he confirmed to The Star.

Dr Sarraf has been working with infertility cases ever since he returned from Germany, in the early '70s where more than 60 per cent of the treatments were successful and ended with normal deliveries, with two or three exceptions in "twins" and of course this unique case. He was also among the first few doctors who introduced the ultra sound machine to Jordan, and could very successfully detect the sex of the embryo during the middle stage of pregnancy.



The ultra sound photograph: The six different uterine water sacks (one is hidden behind another) during the second month of pregnancy

Other new methods in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology, is that it is possible to test the type of chromosomes and to detect the abnormal chromosomal growth of a two month embryo, through chromosomal analysis, instead of the usual four months. And consequently such an early detection means more satisfactory results in childbirth and child health.

From the windows of the past

A Jordanian woman records history in an autobiography

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

SHE MARRIED at fifteen and bore seven children. She followed her husband as his job took him from town to town in Jordan and never thought to complain of the loneliness or problems this brought her. Now she watches her daughters pursue professions and her grandchildren grow.

Najmieh Hikmat might be just a typical Jordanian woman of her generation but, behind the conventional facade, is a woman who has maintained a far from conventional life a, long love affair with books and reading and who, in late 1986, carved her own small niche in her country's history as the first Jordanian woman to write and publish her autobiography.

The book, "Sixty five years of the Life of a Woman in Jordan" took Najmieh Hikmat from a very private existence to one of celebrity. Jordan's daily papers have dedicated full pages of their arts sections to reviews and discussions of her book and she now takes a daily round of telephone calls and congratulatory letters in her stride.

Mrs Hikmat remains a woman of self-effacing charm but the light in her eyes and the quiet satisfaction she takes in having published her book, suggest that the success of her work is a vindication of her own awareness of her intelligence and her untapped capacities.

Mrs Hikmat was born in Syria to a family of Turkish origin but moved to Amman with her mother and brothers when she was only two years old. She remembers little of Syria except for the station at Damascus and the train which brought her to Amman.

Her early years in Amman were made a pleasure by the chance she had to attend school; she quickly discovered the joy of reading and it remained a source of pleasure and consolation throughout her life.

Formal schooling was a brief interlude and at 12, quite late for the time, she was taken out of school and introduced to the veil and to customs that denied young girls even of the pleasure of looking out of the windows of the house. At fifteen her married life began and her own wishes were largely subsumed to the needs of her husband's career as an army officer.

She does not complain or wish for what might have been as, she says, the possibility of any other life simply did not exist so she accepted her life as it was.

Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa Hikmat's career took them to Kerak, Ma'an and Aqaba but, although her life was busy and restricted, Najmieh Hikmat held tenaciously to her passion for reading. In this her husband was always understanding and very supportive and he added books to their weekly supply list along with food and drink. As toddlers, her children were so accustomed to the fact that she took the chance to read while she fed them that, when they wanted to signal that they were hungry, they would fetch her a book.

But Mrs Hikmat wasn't altogether lost in her own world of literature and when she had the idea of writing the story of her life many of the details of the life of the women of the day came back to her. Her writing has won praise for its descriptive quality which presents the life of southern Jordan in the thirties and forties in vivid detail. She says she wrote her book to show the struggles and suffering that marked much of her life. The year 1942 was one of the hardest of her life and even today, over forty years later she remembers it with pain. Her husband was part of the first contingent of Jordanian soldiers sent to Iraq to guard the oil installations. A car accident left him paralyzed on one side and when he was sent back to the Italian Hospital in Amman he was given little hope of ever recovering.

Only Lieut-Col. Hikmat's own determination and his wife's support — she used to tell him stories gleaned from the Arabic version of the Reader's Digest, of American soldiers making brave recoveries from serious injury — brought about his ultimate recovery and return to army life.

Life was not all struggle, however, and throughout her book, Mrs Hikmat shows a strong sense of the humour of many of the situations she describes. The Hikmats were the first family in Aqaba to have a radio and the curious instrument caused much interest among her less privileged women visitors. When they came to visit they always wanted to listen to it but broadcasting hours were limited and it was very hard to explain to them why the radio only made noises at certain times. On one occasion angry visitors were only pacified when one old lady suggested that perhaps the radio was sick and hence was unable to sing.

Life in Aqaba was dominated by the demands of the army. Lieut-Col. Hikmat was the military governor of Aqaba and, as the senior Jordanian military man of the region was obliged to offer hospitality to a steady stream of important visitors.

Not only was it before the days of either regular supplies in Aqaba or of entertainment allowances, Mrs Hikmat was still a traditional veiled woman. So she spent years battling to provide suitably impressive meals for such noted figures as Glubb Pasha, General

Continued on page 26

Liv Ullman in 'Let's hope it's a girl' 1986

'Europa Cinema' moves towards full cultural recovery

By Mazen Asfour
Star Italy Correspondent

THE THIRD Europa Cinema Festival was born under the sign of a farther and more deeply rooted presence in Rimini in north Italy, an Italian town where films have always been the most widespread form of cultural attraction; so much that Rimini with it's numerous movie theatres is still on the eve of the 80th anniversary of its vocation — 90 years since the cinema appeared in this part of the Adriatic. The organic unity is consequently clear not only in terms of what is one of Europe's largest holiday resorts, but also with regard to a knowledgeable and cinema - going public. The aim of the third Europa Cinema '86 Festival is concentrated in its being a prevalently cultural event where the quality of the films of the old continent is exalted (and sometimes stressed) in the context of the word market in which European films are becoming more and more alienated.

Best Europeans films

The 17 best European films had been chosen for the festival and were presented by Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Britain, Greece, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Spain.

Italy's contribution

The Italian film was entitled 'Let's hope it's a Girl" directed by Mario Monicelli and written by Tullio Pinelly. This film was chosed by the Italian for the festival as the best Italian film produced in 1986.

The film tells us the story of Elena who lives in an old farmhouse in the country with her daughters Franca and Malvina, her niece Martina, the maid, Fosca and her daughter Immacolata. Old uncle Ugo also lives with them. Count Leonardo, Elena's husband from whom she is separated arrives at the house from Rome to discuss with Elena the idea of opening a Spa centre on their property. Elena won't let herself be taken in by her husband's never-ending dreams of wealth. Leonardo decides to stay on at the house for a few days and during the course of a car drive in the company of Uncle Ugo, he ends up in a ravine together with the car.

Ugo's memory is bad and he forgets all about the accident. No one in the house is worried about Leonardo's absence while all thoughts concentrate on the disappearance of Martina and Immacolata who have gone to a concert of one of their favourite stars. The news of Leonardo's death disturbs the serenity of the house. After the funeral, Franca goes off with Giovanni her latest boy-friend. Clandia, Elena's sister, decides to take her daughter, Martina, to Rome and Fosca wants to join her husband in Australia. Elena is tempted to sell the property to Nardoini administrator of the estate and her alleged lover, and moves to Rome with Malvina. But in the end the property is not sold and they all meet again in the house, including Loli, Leonardo's girlfriend, and Franca who has meanwhile left Giovanni and is pregnant.

This film is then an example that shows us the state of Italian Cinema today, a new Italian cinema more concerned with quality rather than quantity.

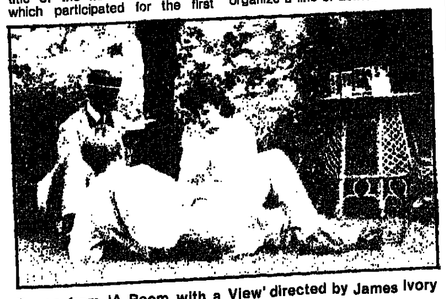
The best British film had shown during the festival was called 'A Room with a View' directed by James Ivory and produced in 1986. The film shows us the return of socially sentimental films as Lucy Honey-Church, an English girl who comes from a good family is making her first trip to Italy, and an innocent girl can't travel alone. She is accompanied by Charlotte, an elderly cousin who plays her role with the determination of the old maid that she is. But Italy changes Lucy. She is witness to a murder together with a young man, George Emerson with whom she falls in love. James Ivory's film 'A Room with a View', is a varied with its Italian setting, its American director, and its Indian producer and scenarist, but as British in essence as its original creator, the novelist E.M. Forster, taking its tone from the light irony of Forster's prose.

Turkey's contribution

"Her Name is Vasfiye" is the title of the newest Turkish film which participated for the first time in the festival, directed by Atif Yilmaz. 'Her Name is Vasfiye', is the story of a young writer who is short of inspiration. During a morning stroll he stops to look at a poster of a woman whose name apparently is Sevim Suna. While the writer is standing giving his imagination free rein, a man approaches and eyes the poster. Her name is Vasfiye', he says and begins to narrate the story of the woman's life. After telling the writer about the childhood of Vasfiye and his own, the man disappears and his place is taken by another man who continues the story from another point of view.

The young writer becomes more and more involved in the lives of those who have known Vasfiye and ends up by visiting the night club indicated on the poster where he meets Sevim Suna and maybe Vasfiye.. The director Atif Yilmaz in his newest production combined fantasy with realism. He tries to analyze the 'image' of women created by men. He draws the portrait or a woman singer from different points of view, using both fantasy and humour.

A question posed during the festival whether this was European cultural identity. Europa Cinema, the European film Festival, which is in an ideal position to propose European cinematographic culture, will be taking stock of the situation this year, confirming for the third time the appointment with Europes' specialists and with the public, and demonstrating its unmistakeable character and supranational and European outlook. During the course of 1988 "European and Television Year" promoted by the European Community, the European cinema shall attempt to answer the above question, to go beyond theory and organize a line of action.



Scene from 'A Room with a View' directed by James Ivory

'The Road' of Naguib Mahfouz on the Egyptian screen

LITERARY WORKS have often presented an irresistable temptation to filmmakers all over the world to transfer them to the screen. The results, of course, have varied from pathetic failures to faithful reproductions and, in rare cases, to brilliant adaptations depending largely on the filmable quality of the work itself and the talent and skill of the director and the cast.

Egyptian cinema is no exception to the common rule of literary adapted films. Many good films, as well as several disastrous ones have been based on well known and popular novels. The novelist who has had the lion's share on the Egyptian screen is Naguib Mahfouz. Veteran as well as young directors have tried their hand at filming Mahfouz's novels, of course with varying success.

One novel that has been dramatized, serialized (both on radio and television), filmed and refilmed is 'Al Tareek' (The Road). The original story deals with the universal theme of the eternal search of one's identity and the forces of good and evil that pull the human soul in opposite directions on that rough and hazardous road. The end of the journey is almost always uncertain and the search may well be futile, but it is what each individual makes out of that quest that counts and determines the quality of his life.

The latest film version of Mahfouz's classical novel is so far the best. Having been filmed in the early sixties starring Rushdi Abaza in the main role, the character portrayal, which is a main issue, was quite shaky. But Nour El Sherif as lost and desperate Mukhtar is a very credible incarnation of Mahfouz's hero, with Yusra and Shahira as the two female forces pulling in the opposite directions of love and lust, good and evil.

In the film whose director Ashraf Fahmy called 'Wasmat Ar' (Stigma of Shame) a totally new dimension is given to the literary work. While faithfully adhering to the original, Ashraf Fahmy (a talented young filmmaker) 'visualized' many scenes greatly enhancing the effect of the symbolism behind them — the dream scene and the card game sequence in particular are rich in implications.

The one flaw of the film is the character of the villain of the piece, Farag, an over-inflated representation of the director's own imagination.

By being so dramatically convincing (well played by Youssef Sha'ban) and adding so much to the element of surprise in the film, his overpowering presence detracted from the main issue of the film and dimmed its great finale.

Recent film releases

Angel Heart (R) Mickey Rourke — Exquisitely styled occult film about a seedy gumshoe who descends into a hellish world (Good)

Black Widow (R) Debra Winger, Theresa Russell — Sultry woman kills husbands for money, a classy thriller (Good)

Burglar (R) Whoopi Goldberg — Blaring, Throwaway, comedy-mystery that wastes Whoopi's talent (Boring)

Crocodile Dundee (PG-13) Paul Hogan — celebrated Australian croc hunter explores the perils of Manhattan (Good)

Heat (R) Burt Reynolds — Not-so-hot drama about a las vegas tough guy with a big heart (Fair)

Hoosiers (PG) Gene Hackman — Big hearted small movie about high school basketball coach and team on the comeback trail (Great)

Lethal Weapon (R) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover — Cop buddy actioner is compromised by overwhelming violence (Fair)

Man Facing Southeast (R) Hugo Solo — Is this mental patient a psychotic or from another planet? Compelling drama (Good)

Mannequin (PG) Andrew McCarthy — Store mannequin comes to life and sparks romance, lifeless, plodding comedy (Boring)

A Nightmare On Elm Street 3. (R) Heather Langenkamp — Another round of gore with the indestructible monster (Fair)

Outrageous Fortune (R) Bette Midler, Shelley Long — Female buddy comedy bogs down with silly cliches (Fair)

Platoon (R) Tom Berenger — Powerful, vivid account of Vietnam war, horror and inner conflicts expertly detailed (Great)

Radio Days (PG) Mia Farrow — Woody Allen comedy is packed with warm, insightful vignettes of pre-TV era (Great)

Raising Arizona (PG-13) Nicolas Cage — Spoof of American family can't raise enough laughs (Fair)

Some Kind Of Wonderful (PG-13) Eric Stoltz — Teen boys compete for affections of popular girl, love triangle rehash (Fair)

Tin Men (R) Richard Dreyfuss, Danny Devito — Fine funny, comedy about feuding, film-flamming, aluminum siding salesmen (Good)

Art blossoms in the flower business

By Wafa Abdel Hamid
Special to The Star

MRS RITA Ghul's great love for flowers is obviously felt in her pressed flower pictures now on show in Nuha Batshon's Art Gallery at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel until 9 April.

Using some of the very carefully picked wild and cultivated flowers found in the countryside, Jordan valley, and different spots in Jordan, Mrs Ghul's refreshing, artisitc work adds a colourful, natural atmoshpere to Miss Batshon's cosy gallery.

The soft coloured and delicate works add further to the sense of the seasonal year.

Mrs Ghul learnt flower-pressing art while still a child at school, skillfully producing attractive pieces of art with her own hands, quite a long and complicated process.

First, the flowers have to be carefully chosen, the time factor being very important, usually during early afternoons. The flowers are then taken apart; the petals separated and placed between blotting paper and pressed under the heavy weight of books, for lack of a proper press, which do the job just as fine. The blotting paper is used to dry the fine diassembled petals and leaves in case of leaving spots of water on them.

After drying, Mrs Ghul starts by spreading the pieces out on her huge dining table in front of her and rearranges them. Rearrangement is done according to colour and movement.

Any movement would ruin the arrangement of flowers. Sorting out the leaves, stems, petals and grass is a very difficult business and patience is greatly needed.

"During rearrangement, I do not allow myself the slightest movement, because dried flowers are very fine and sensitive," said Mrs Ghul.

Rearrangement ranges from the traditional, formal crescent around an empty space in the centre, to flowers growing naturally and vertically (broomlike).

The gracefulness of the final outcome embodied by the curved lines of small flowers skillfuly placed in shape, and the lay out of stems and stamens, the many different shades of colours are greatly admired and praised.

Mrs Ghul utilized different shades of colours ranging from violet, to white, fresh orange, green, pink, and brown. She said that some flowers lose their colour while other retain it throughout the years.

Some of the flowers used are daffodils, tulpis, jasmine,, daisies, grape leaves and stems, the wild pea, clover, roses, pansies, hollyhocks and carnations.

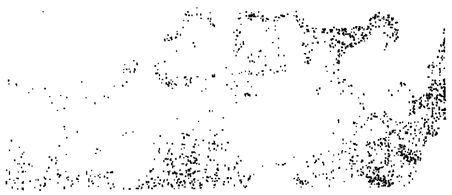
These flowers were also used by Mrs Ghul to make attractive arrangements on greeting cards, book covers and costumes.

Born in Breslan Silisia — Germany, Mrs Ghul put together a herbarium while at school. In 1953 she attended art school in Maidstone, England where she painted on porcelain; then attended art school in London, working in ceramics in 1954-55.

Jordan's wild flora encouraged her to collect and dry flowers and to rearrange them into pictures She participated in oil paintings exhibits in Beirut with AUB students, at Aqaba in 1981 with Jordanian Artists during the Spring Festival, and at the Jordan University in 1987.

Rita Ghul's portrait of pressed flowers

PEOPLE & EVENTS



The Gortineas group

● The Rebatika music of Greece provided the opportunity for east and west to meet in a kaleidoscope of sound colour and passionate movement. The evening sponsored by the Greek University Graduates Club brought together not only those Jordanians who studied in Athens but Greek families who have lived sometimes for years or even generations in the Near East.

The refined and highly intense Rebatika music presented by the **Gortineas** group according to the Greeks present at the Saturday concert, was of an exceptional standard. The young players from the Gortineas region of the Peloponnese have been together around two years. **Yanis**, the bazouki player is an experienced musician, **George**, the guitar player studied at a musical academy while singers **Andreas** and **Katrina** both work.

The group practises daily inthe summer, taking advantage of the festivities of Athens, although at this point they still remain non-professional.

Rebatika music evolved in the early 1920's in Piraeus amongst the Greek refugees from Asia Minor. Initially Rebatika was frowned upon, but the emotional intensity and lyrical beauty of its form eventually overcame class reservations and it is now recognized as one of the finest expressions in the wide spectrum of Greek music. The migrations of Greeks into the new world brought the Rebatika form with its high clear tonnes to New York, Melbourne and Toronto, where it stands as a further gift, one of the latest of the bounties of the three thousand years of Greek civilization

The lyrics of such music are highly emotive and indicative of the litestyle and problems of its originators; a refugee faced with loss of his material world, an immigrant bidding the balconies of his village, call their farewells, of poverty, of unemployment and of course, love. Dancers from the audience, figurative and intensely alone step out each quarter note of the music and traditionally accompany the generous flow Rebatika.

The instruments of such troupes generally include a bazouki, a guitar, a bagalamas — a small six stringed instrument and a drum or tubrlaki and one or two singers.

In the early 80's the classical form of Rebaika under went a certain change under the leadership of "the great Savapolos" who brought the music to a wider audience through television and records.

The Gortineas group played many songs from the early classical period which delighted their audience who flooded the small floor and danced on the tables. Thoughtfully the Alumini had provided dozens of carnations to throw over the musicians rather than the traditional plates. The audience represented the many forms of Greek-Arab interaction; from the patrician families long part of the Near East, to the elegant high nosed Athenian beauties married to Jordanian husbands, and the majority, Jordanian students who studied in Greece and certainly returned from their host country with far more than academic accreditations.

The Gortineas troupe clearly thrilled their audience dancing continued until 4 am and consensus held by those present indicated that all wished to see the youthful group return or even better the return of the well-wishers to Athens to see the troupe preforming professionally there.

The Gortineas troupe will hold a further performance on Thursday night at the Greek Orthodox club for those who missed their first exciting concert. Many of those who attended the first evening ann going again ... so be early.

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● The second annual exhibition of the Jordan Chapter of the Ikebana International was opened Monday by Mrs **Shizuyo Nakayama**, wife of the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Mrs Nakayama, the honorary president of the Jordan Chapter of the Ikebana International, said that through flowers, and flower arrangements, the Ikebana Chapter aims at generosity friendship and better understanding between Jordan and Japan.

Ikebana International includes 500 schools specialized in flower arranging which range from traditional decorations to modern and advanced arrangements.

Mrs. Nakayama noted that Ikebana was formerly part of Japan's religion but later became an art of great value.

The Jordan Chapter gives monthly instructive courses for those who like to learn the art of flower arranging. The morning session for beginners runs from 10 am-1:00 pm while the evening session is from 3:30:6:30 pm for advanced members.

Filling the Blue Room at the RCC were flowers of all types and colours. Spectacular arrangements of branches, leaves and flowers, with their refreshing fragrance were praised by a crowd which showed up for the exhibition. The 23 members of the Ikebana Jordan Chapter worked wonders with the flowers which one could only admire.

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● British Airways will celebrate the opening of its new offices on Saturday. BA's Middle East Regional Director Mr **Peter Spencer** is to be in Amman for the occasion. The new offices are located in the Arab Investment Bank's building in Shmeisani

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● **Resit Uman's** cocktail party last Monday was successful not only because of his hospitality, but also due to the presence of his mother, visiting from Turkey. Heading the guest list were **Turkish Ambassador** and **Mrs Samih Belen**, Counsellor **Sevil Yurdakatul**, and many memers of the Turkish community in Amman and their friends. **Munjed Murad** and his Turkish wife **Nevin**, and **Suhail Bisharat** and Turkish-speaking wife **Leila** were there

The British Embassy was represented by **Hilary** and **Annie Synnott**, **David** and **Caroline Whitbread** and **Sarah Rowland Jones**, while Charles-Henri d'Arcon represented the French Michael and **Evelyn Koukakis** were there for the Greeks. **Rudi** and **Azra Lemp** for the Germans **Hilmi Bdeir** and **Ramadan El-Sharif** the Egyptians, and the **Guido Cerbonis** for Italy, with **David** and **Gretchen Welsh** from the United States.

Not that these were all the diplomats present, but Jordan's Foreign Ministry was represented, one popular career diplomat being **Awn Khasawneh**. Jordan member of parliament **Ismail Hijazi** was there with Secretary General **Hani Kheir**, and last but not least, the media, with JTV's **Line Gress**, **Leila Deeb** from Reuters, Voice of America's **Olga Mikhail** and Jordan Times **Salameh Ne'mat**.

• • •

● **Dr Thomas Weber** and his lovely wife **Katrin** of the German Protestant Archaeology Institute in Jordan held a reception in honour of Dr **Edmond Buchner**, president of all German Archaeological Institutes in the Mediterranean area.

The evening reception was attended by **Dr Herwig Bartlee**, West Germany ambassador to Jordan, Dr and Mrs **August Stroebel**, director of the German Archaeology Institute in Jerusalem and Dr **David McCreary**, director of ACOR. Also among those present who gathered in the very friendly atmosphere were Dr **Burton MacDonald** and his lovely wife **Dr Rosemarie Sampson**, Dr **Nancy Lapp** of ACOR, Dr **Andy Garrad** of the British Archaeology Institute, **Mr. Adolf Perner**, DR and Mrs **Burner Strasser**, DR **Fawzi Zayadine** of the Dept of Antiquities and people from Jordan University.

Autobiography

Continued from page 24

Wavell, Field Marshall Montgomery and even, one occasion, the Prince of Wales — but never actually had the chance to meet any of them. She cooked, placed the food on the table and then retired to her own part of the house, emerging only to clear the table when the men had finished. Mrs Glubb would make a point of visiting her but the others were really nothing more than mere work for the busy mother of a growing family.

Once again she did not feel resentful because an alternative way of doing things simply did not exist and also she was happy to know she was helping her husband in his work. It also seemed normal to cope with babies and washing without help by putting the baby in the pram, wrapping herself with a towel and tying it to the pram so that she could rock the pram and do the laundry at the same time.

And there were times for relaxation. Visiting was the only real entertainment available for women but the religious feasts were lively times, much more so than today, she says, and when she lived in Aqaba, Mrs Hikmat liked to sit, suitably veiled, on the beach and watch the waves.

Mrs Hikmat hopes that young Jordanians will read her work so that they can learn more of the history of their country and can understand just how far and how quickly it has progressed.

She also believes that it is good for the young generation, and particularly the young women, to know just how difficult life could be for their mothers and grandmothers.

Curiously, her book strikes a chord with many young women not because it introduces them to an unknown world of struggle but because it illuminates an already familiar world. As one of them puts it, "It is absorbing because she speaks of things which are familiar to you as a woman. It is the same suffering your own mother and grandmother went through and you feel you may also have to ..."

Najmieh Hikmat is now considering a second edition of her book, possible to include this time a photograph of the author, something her children now ruefully admit they didn't feel was quite suitable for the first edition. And having launched her literary carrier Mrs Hikmat sees no reason why she should not continue with her writing. Those who have read her first book would certainly like to see her keen eye and skilfull pen used to bring more of their country's recent past to life.

Non-Arabic readers must also hope for an English edition of the work. The anonymous and forbidding veil of traditional Arab society has tended to lead outsiders to the belief that its wearers lacked individuality and humanity and somehow existed in a vacuum.

Najmieh Hikmat's book can introduce them to a very particular Jordanian woman as she struggled to live her life, dedicated to her husband and children but always maintaining her own identity and using her books to carry her past the isolating walls of her house to the world outside.

Exhibition depicts urban measures to save archaeology

By Frida Mdanat
Special to The Star

THE RAPID expansion of the city of Rome and the concentration of commercial and political buildings in the centre have caused considerable harm to some of the archaeological sites in the area which in turn has called for Rome to take certain measures to save its archaeological heritage from modern civilization.

'Planning on the past, the Rome project' is the title of the exhibition outlining the problem with documents from past to present, including 80 pictures, drawings and panels with English explanations.

The exhibition brought to Jordan by the Italian Embassy with the collaboration of the Archaeological Mission in Jerash is currently displayed at Yarmouk University, Irbid following a five day display at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

The first part of the exhibition draws the lines of the urban development of Rome in ancient times, running from the legendary foundation by King Romulus to the huge building projects of the emperors, through the expansion of the Republican era. Following the historical introduction the exhibition illustrates the main stages of the modern rediscovery of archaeology in Rome. The final part of the project demonstrates the main plans elaborated by the State Archaeological Superintendence and by the Municipality of Rome to face problems resulting from traffic and pollution.

Mr Carlo Pavolini, Director of Archaeological Superintendency in Rome who came especially to put up the exhibition in Amman said that archaeologists, architects and urbanistics have been working for years to present to the government of Rome a preliminary project which could save the country's archaeology that is condemned to death due to urbanism. He explained that at the beginning of the 19th century, there were attempts to enclose the monumental complexes within the context of the city, but that during the second half of the same century it was agreed to separate them, causing the isolation of these archeological complexes from the city. With the quick expansion of the modern city, which developed without consideration to ancient Rome, many monuments were destroyed.

The present plans, added Mr Pavolini, aim at the rescue of urban archaeological areas with a new way of planning and the exhibition illustrates the history of the problem and the means and methods to overcome it.

Giorgio Gullini, author of 'The Urbanistic History of Ancient Rome,' parts of which are included in the catalogue introducing the exhibiton, wrote in the forward that no other country can understand the difficulties facing Rome that Jordan with its exceptionally dense and interesting cultural heritage. Many of the difficulties experienced by the Municipality of Rome are common to the cities of Amman and Jerash where the modern and ancient parts of the cities must be harmonized and a suitable relationship must be established between the past and present for the building of a better future.

Rome, a city whose past harmonises with modernity

Architecture: A threat to culture?

By Mutale Chilangwa
Special to The Star

THE ACT of building can best be described by using the phrase 'Bauenwohnensein' — the traditional concept of building, habitation and being. Is building really a manifestation of a person's existence? Do the building trends in developing countries today reflect the local manifestation of the people? These are some of the questions that Professor Arnold Koerte tackled during his lecture on Planning and Building in Developing Countries.

Professor Koerte who was in Jordan at the invitation of the German Cultural Centre (the Goothe Institute) and the Architecture Department from the University of Jordan, is a member of staff at the Institute of Planning and Design in Developing Countries in Darmstadt, West Germany. The field of Planning and Development is fairly new in West Germany, and has existed in Darmstadt only since 1980 where the concentration is mainly on housing.

Building in developing countries today is under the danger of using designs which have been drawn up by outsiders who sometimes do not take local weather conditions and materials into consideration. This problem can be compounded by planners who may have lived in the west and feel comfortable with certain types of new ideas and forget to look closely at local conditions.

Planning and building in developing countries can be greatly improved upon not just by the use of local skill and materials but also by preventing cultural self destruction. The latter refers to completely destroying old buildings instead of renovating them resulting in the loss of historical landmarks.

Developing countries today have the advantage of being able to plan according to their own life styles. Professor Koerte gave examples of how the highly mobile life in the United States has influenced building patterns. For example, the use of mobile homes and cheaply made prefabricated houses which can easily be moved from one place to the other.

Professor Koerte advocated vernacular architecture which simply means allowing local people to build using materials that are readily available and concentrating on improving upon them. He also encouraged planners and builders in developing countries to concentrate on getting a better understanding of what materials and skills are available to them locally. This would not only decrease costs but also help to decrease over dependence on imported "packaged architecture" which may not always be suitable for local conditions.

When speaking on architecture and cultural identity, Professor Koerte examined the tendency of developing countries to eagerly import architectural ideas. This tendency seems quite strange especially in countries where people profess a vehement desire to maintain cultural identity and heritage. What may be theoretically sound loses ground when it is not expressed through a nations architectures.

Professor Koerte referred to an "international sameness" that seems to be sweeping the world as more and more buildings become increasingly similar. Architectural designs found in developing countries could very well be found in a city in Europe or in the United States. Isn't there a danger of losing individual expression through this belief that what is western is seemingly the result of progress and prestige.?

Professor Koerte stressed two points about the cultural identity concerning architecture: firstly, cultural identity cannot be imported from the outside and secondly people seem to have difficulty in actually expressing their culture through architectural designs. Planners and builders should seek to attempt to search out local cultural images in order to physically communicate culture and local heritage.

Besides the obvious dangers of losing regional architectural identity, developing countries are in the danger of falling into the same trap that some countries in the west have fallen into. For example, there is the failure sometimes to provide living units that people can feel attached to, as in the case of buildings which are faceless and lack the ability to draw the attention of the inhabitants to their culture. They become living units with no individuality and lacking any close contact with nature.

Modern architects, especially those trained in their own countries, should seek to translate cultural identity into physical buildings They are in the position to learn from the west, of course but isn't treating western ideas as always the best going a little too far?

A feather in Unicef's cap

By Carrie Nelle Moye
Star UN Correspondent

NEW YORK — For 33 years the famous comedian, Danny Kaye, served as the "Goodwill Ambassador" on behalf of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. He died 3 March. On 4 March, Mr James P. Grant, Executive Director of Unicef, announced that Harry Belafonte would become Unicef's new ambassador, joining actors Liv Ullmann and Peter Ustinov in working for the world's children in need.

In speaking to the press in his first appearance as Unicef's standard bearer, Mr Belafonte showed an unusual depth of knowledge of the enormity of the problems faced by mothers and children in the Third World. Serving as Vice President and spokesman for United Support of Artists for Africa (USA for Africa), he has been deeply involved in the African emergency efforts and, in fact, was the person responsible for bringing together the musicians to produce the highly successful "We Are The World", raising millions of dollars for African relief. Because of his experience in dealing with the African emergency, Mr Belafonte will begin his work for Unicef on that continent, and will pay special attention to attracting African artists to the plight of the children.

In his initial press conference, Mr Belafonte noted that raising money was good and necessary to alleviate the problems such as those encountered in Africa, but he feels it is essential to get persons who are well known to the locals to go among the people and talk with them about what they can do to help lessen some of their own suffering.

Mr Belafonte gave as an example the necessity of having mothers understand what occurs in immunization. He explained that money could purchase vaccine, but if a mother brought an infant for a first injection and later noticed her child had a fever, she might not be willing to take the infant for essential follow-up injections. But if well known African artists — "who are followed down the streets wherever they go" — will talk with mothers and explain what is happening, mothers and others will listen to them.

Harry Belafonte

To this end Mr Belafonte will meet with African artists, writers and educators this month in Senegal on his first Unicef goodwill tour.

The new ambassador's talents will not be confined to the African continent. He expects to go to all areas of the globe where Unicef provides assistance; this will include various areas of the Middle East.

It appears Unicef has made a wise choice in selecting Mr Belafonte, and it is generally thought Unicef was fortunate in his agreeing to assume mantle carried for so long by Danny Kaye. Mr Belafonte is immensely popular throughout the world, and especially so in the United States, where conservative political thinking in the past few years has often led to anti-UN feelings, culminating in the US's withholding its pledged funds. So accepted is Mr Belafonte that even though he has been an activist in the American Civil Rights movement, including marching in the famous Selma (Alabama) to Montgomery drive in 1963, he is not considered controversial; rather, he is one of America's most respected and popular entertainers.

So versatile is Mr Belafonte that he has often been dubbed 'the consumate entertainer." Most persons immediately think of him for initiating the Calypso craze in 1955, when his album of the same title became the first in history to sell over a million copies But he is also a Broadway, movie, and television star, a concert singer, a producer and has his own movie company. He is the first black man to have won an Emmy (for "Tonight with Harry Belafonte") and the first black producer in television. He was the first entertainer to be named by the late President John F. Kennedy as a "cultural advisor" to the Peace Corps. In 1981, he received the Dag Hammarskjold Medal in Belgium, and in 1982, he received the Martin Luther King, Jr. non-Violent Peace Prize.

It is expected that Mr Belafonte's background, dedication and enthusiasm will bring a new vitality to Unicef at a time when the UN system is suffering from significant financial woes and backlash political ideology.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Your TV guide

Channel 2

The New Cycle

Channel 2 from 4 - 10 April

The New Mini-Series OUT ON A LIMB Monday at 10:20

Troy has gripped imaginations for nearly 3,000 years. This series of six programmes, filmed in locations that include Greece, Turkey and Berlin, is an historical detective story. It attempts to discover whether the events and people of the Trojan War — as described by Homer — are true, or simply myth. It examines the question of whether the abduction of a woman — Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world — could have led to a war lasting 10 years.

* 10:20 The Last Convertible, starring Perry King, Bruce Boxleitner and John Shea. Based on Antony Myrer's best-selling novel, this 6-hour dramatization tells the story of five members of Harvard's class of '44. Their lives and loves, as we follow them through World War II and into the dissilusionment of the Post War Era.

English Programmes

Saturday

* 8:30 Music Box
* 9:30 Dad's Army
* 10:20 Feature Film.

Sunday

* 8:30 Growing Pains. Starring Alan Thicke and Joanna Kerns. After fifteen years as a house-wife Maggie decides to return to work as a local newspaper reporter. Her husband Jason a Psychiatrist moves his practice into their home so that he would be more involved in raising their three children. The couple's differing points of view lead to some very funny situations and "growing pains."

* 9:30 Acid Rain, documentary: The film provides a unique up-date of the latest scientific evidence on the causes of acid rain and graphic reports from Scandinavia and Holland illustrate its damaging effects on wildlife, and the environment in general.

In order to reduce acid rain, these countries have taken stringent measures to cut down emissions from factories and power stations.

* 10:20 Robbery Under Arms: Sam Neil stars as Captain Starlight, renegade English nobleman, pursuing a notorious career of robbery under arms with the young Marston brothers.

Monday

* 8:30 Ever Decreasing Circles: The ubiquitous and perennially popular Richard Breiers is the man destined to spend his life whirling round in hilarious 'Ever Decreasing Circles.'

* 9:10 Moonlighting

* 10:20 Out On A Limb: "To get to the fruit of the tree, you have to go out on a limb."

It begins rather quietly, as Shirley Macalime muses on a deserted California beach. It climaxes on a soaring, craggy peak in South America, where she finds her past, her present and perhaps, her future.

Though perceived as "having it all" — a fulfilling love life, wealth, fame and a legendary career — Shirley felt something was missing: a purpose, a direction, meaning to her life.

Tuesday

* 8:30 You Again.

* 9:10 Yesterday's Dreams: Yesterday's Dreams is a contemporary love story set against a background of intrigue in the aero engine industry.

Martin (Paul Freeman) and Diane (Judy Loe) meet again, five years after their divorce. The film explores the effect their meeting has on their children, family and friends and follows the couple as they retrace their steps to the beginning of their relationship.

* 10.20 The unknown war. Documentary.

The New Drama Series YESTERDAY'S DREAMS Tuesday at 9:10 pm.

* 11:00 Bergerac: Jim Bergerac continues his running battle with the criminal world which Jersey seems to attract. He finds himself in conflict with the newly promoted inspector Borney Crozier, and is once again dismayed by his ex-father-in-law, the ever popular Charlie Hungerford.

Wednesday

* 8:30 Three's A Crowd: Bradford doesn't approve of his daughter living with a man, even though he is separated himself, and quite a one for the ladies. He'd like to see Jack and Vicky split up and he does his best to cause trouble between them. Meanwhile, Jack has another problem. He would be only too happy to marry Vicky, but there's just one snag. Vicky has been put off marriage by her parents' example and she simply doesn't want to know.

* 9:10 Gentle Way With Cancer, the last episode, then a new documentary "In Search of The Trojan War": The tale of

Thursday

* 8:30 Me & My Girl

* 9:10 The Last Frontier. Australia's Great Outback unleashes its hard reality against Kate Hannon (Linda Evans), an American woman anxious to carve out a new life for herself and her family. Instead she is swept into a deadly land struggle with her powerful neighbour Ed Stenning (Jason Robards) and an impassioned romance with his renegade son Nick (Jack Thompson).

* 10:20 Feature Film.

Friday

* 8:30 The Cosby Show: Cosby + Kinds = Comedy. It's one of life's most perfect combinations and one of television's most successful

Emmy Award-Winner Bill Cosby stars as Cliff Huxtable. As an obstetrician and happily married father of four, Cliff lover kids both personally and professionally. But he finds it easier to handle the one he's bringing into the world then the ones he's bringing up yet, handle them he must: his wife Clair's most effective ultimatum is "just wait till your father gets home."

* 9:10 Falcon Crest.

* 10:20 Peter The Great: The Pageantry. The beauty. The majestic grandeur of 18th century Russia is recaptured in one of the most lavish, compelling mini-series ever produced for television — Peter The Great.

Eight captivating houses. Starring Maximilian Schell, Laurence Olivier, Omar Sharif, Venessa Redgrave, Hanna Schygulla and Ursula Andress.

French Programmes

Saturday

* 6:00 Des Trains Pas Comme Les Autres: A documentary serie about railway systems in India, Canada and Sweeden. Les Nouveaux Mondes: A documentary serie about the new world — Australia.

* 7:00 News In French.
* 7:15 La Force Du Destin: Drama serie.

Sunday

* 5:30 French Feature Films.
* 7:00 News In French.
* 7:15 La Force Du Destin: Drama serie.

Monday

* 6:00 Felicien Greveche: A drama serie of 8 episodes: 1980 – 1985 Love and adventures set the scene for this tale of a veteran of the Paris commune who becomes a country doctor. This serie will be followed by another serie of 5 episodes "Le Veto."

* 7:00 News In French.
* 7:15 The Sports Magazine.

Tuesday

* 6:00 Educational and scientific documentary serie
* 6:30 The Children's Programme "L'ecole Des Fans"
* 7:00 News In French.
* 7:15 Documentary Magazine.

Wednesday

* 6:00 Tiroir Secret: A drama serie of 6 episodes starring Michel Morgan and Nadine Trintignant: Suspecting her late husband of leading a double life. A psychologist defies danger and searches Europe in answer of the truth. This serie will be followed by another historical one "Richelieu" of 6 episodes. About the life of the famous French leader Richelieu.

* 7:00 News In French.
* 7:17 Aujourd'hui En Jordanie. A local magazine produced by Saleh Madi about different aspects in Jordan society, culture and economy.

Thursday

* 5:30 Variety Programme Camps Elysees, Le Grand Echiquier, Embarquement Immedial.
* 7:00 News In French.
* 7:15 Le Monde Selon Georges: A documentary magazine.

Friday

* 5:30 Les Cinq Dernieres Minutes, Or, Julien Fontanes: A detective serie.
* 7:00 News In French
* 7:15 Varieties.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

Programme highlights for week beginning Saturday 4 April, 1987

HIGH TECH, LOW TECH: An outstanding feature of today's industrial and economic scene is the speed of change. This change, now being played out on a global scale, will sooner or later affect everyone in the world. Will it make all of us better off eventually, or enrich only a minority of people — and countries — at the expense of the rest? John Pickford, who recently presented a two-part BBC World Service documentary on the newly-industrialized countries of the Far East, reports.

ISLAND PEOPLE: On a recent journey round Britain's off-shore islands, Keith Hindell met a number of people whose lives stood as original and insular. In the first of a six-programme series he talks to Ruth le Mocheux, President of the Jersey Norman-French Society.

COUNTERPOINT: Paul Jones returns to the BBC Wolrd Service airwaves this week with his weekly selection of records embracing jazz rock to blues and almost everything in between. He'll also be keeping lissteners abreast of the latest and most significant trends on the contemporary music scene.

YOU AIN'T HEARD NOTHING YET: In two programmes, Roy Pickard recalls the golden days of 60 years ago when speech came to the screen and the reputation of Al Jolson was established. It's a fascinating story, illustrated along the way with some of the entertainer's best songs, and provides a glimpse into the uncertainties of a show-business career in what is generally referred to as "the good old days."

SOCIETY TODAY: The first programme in a new series looking at the changing face of Britain, particularly at the social trends behind the news.

Sunday 5/4/87
* 19:15 High Tech, Low Tech
* 19:15 Counterpoint

Monday 6/4/87
16:30 You Ain't Heard Nothing Yet.

Thursday 7/4/87
* 00:00 Island People
* 09:30 Counterpoint

Wednesday 5/4/87
* 07:30 Island People
* 14:15 Island People

Thursday 9/4/87
* 00:15 Counterpoint
* 06:30 High Tech, Low Tech
* 13:00 You Ain't Heard Nothing Yet.

Friday 10/4/87
* 22:45 Society Today

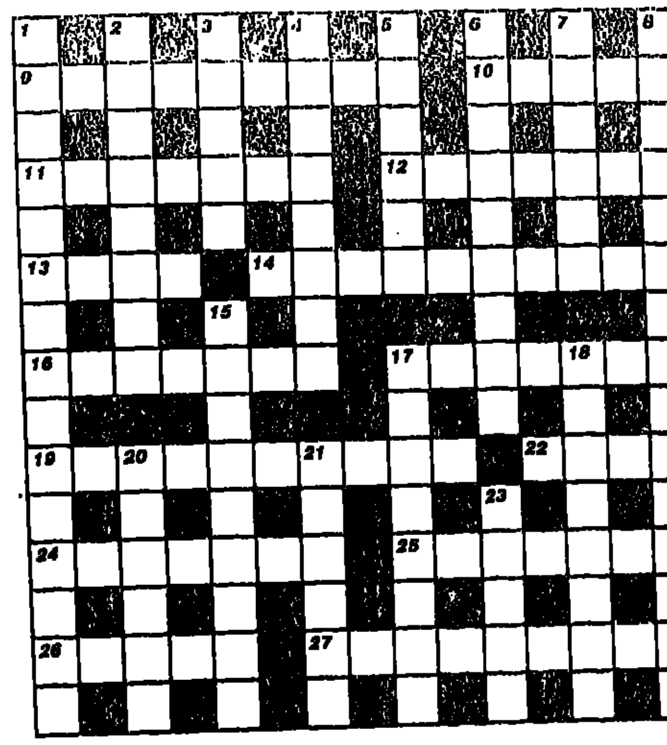
Saturday 11/4/87
* 08:30 Society Today
* 12'45 Society Today

ACROSS

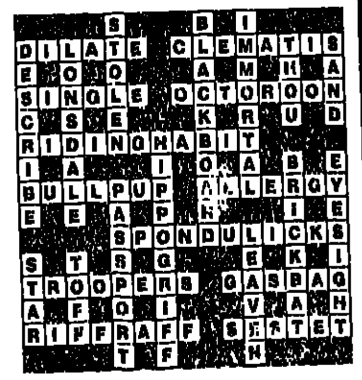
9 Fast in vain the second week in February? (9).
10 Eastern European comes west to escape (5)
11 Enumeration may make it clear (7).
12 Back the last runner in 'andicap? (7).
13 State in which one did less than usual (4).
14 Lady's invitation to compiler in company to subject her to violence? (4, 6).
16 People who take a stand on twos? (7).
17 Promise to this woman is made in church (7).
19 How pilot indicates he has landing difficulty? (4, 6).
22 Young's settlement of a hut (4).
24 They preserve and are destroyed by the best performances (7).
25 Insolence returned by unpleasant traveller (7).
26 Fear of super-grass? (5).
27 Go back to former spouse — there's no alternative to loving in this kind of marriage (9).

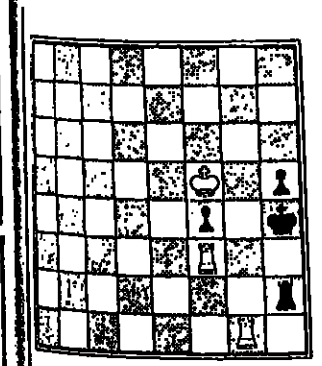
DOWN

1 Treatment for addiction to sin — have prayer group (8, 7).
2 Want student to enter request for one who fails to come out . . . (8).
3 . . . as the workers are called to from one quarter (5).
4 Charges on account — a fantastic amount (8).
5 Rigorous as always in Kent (6).
6 Publicity given to punishment awarded by principal (9).
7 Last chapter of Ruth, perhaps (6).
8 Soldiers frisk revolutionary — what's not clear is who provides the drugs (8, 7).
15 Event, of course, he holds or cares about (5, 4).
17 A consistent winner with first XV in flower (8).
18 Top liner required to train for law enforcement (8).
20 Creed — one of a number binding the Church (6).
21 Fermented grapes and rolled tobacco (6).
23 Force the starving to pick up the leavings (5).



SOLUTION



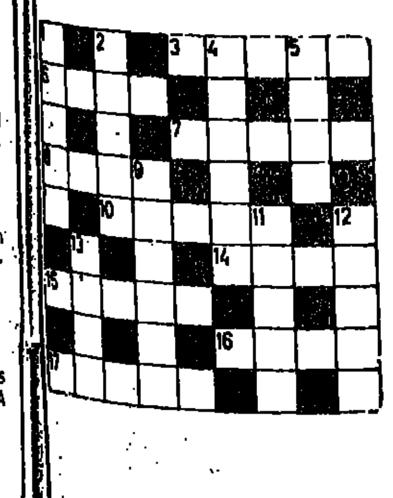


White mates in three moves at latest, against any defence (by Sam Lloyd). If it was Black's move, there would be no problem. His R—QR7 would be met by 2 R—KR1 ch and mate, while R—KR6 would fall to R×BP mate. But White, to play, lacks a reasonable waiting move.

Despite the few pieces, this can be tough to solve, and even experts of the British Chess Problem Society found it hard at their recent meeting. The BCPS has a magazine, The Problemist, with regular competitions for solvers. A subscription (six issues) is £7·50 from 14 Newton Park Drive, Leeds 7.

Chess solution

1 R—KKt5. If 1 . . . R—QR7; 2 R×RP ch, K · R; 3 R—R3 mate. If 1 . . . R—KR8; 2 R—KKt2, R—QR8; 3 R—KR2 mate, or here 2 . . . R—KR8; 3 R×BP mate.



CLUES ACROSS.—3. Oriental country. 6. Coastal town of Clwyd. 7. Meat juice. 8. Gritty particles of rock. 10. Black, in heraldry. 14. Sketch. 15. Regal. 16. Rain hard. 17. Smaller in number.
CLUES DOWN.—1. Newly-made. 2. Songs of praise. 4. King of England 1036. 5. Maritime force. 9. Cause injury. 11. Mistake. 12. Move in an eddy. 13. Centre part.

SOLUTION

ACROSS.—3. Pound. 6. Common. 7. Scrap. 8. Minute. 12. Morale. 13. Colon. 14. Depose. 15. Armed.
DOWN.—1. Scamp. 2. Omens. 3. Postponed. 4. Once. 5. Neat. 9. Major. 10. Level. 11. Poor. 12. Mole.

	North ♠ J 5 ♡ Q 10 5 4 ♢ A K 7 4 ♣ 8 6 2	
West ♠ 10 8 6 4 2 ♡ K 7 ♢ 6 ♣ Q J 10 5 3		**East** ♠ Q 7 3 ♡ A J 8 2 ♢ J 10 3 ♣ A 9 4
	South ♠ A K 9 ♡ 9 6 3 ♢ Q 9 8 5 2 ♣ K 7	

Dealer East—Game all

When France played Belgium in the European Championship, the Belgians at one table played the North-South hands in Three Diamonds. This contract looks fairly easy, does it not? If the defenders begin with two rounds of clubs, South cannot fail to make nine tricks.

However, it didn't go like that. East opened One Club, which doesn't mean a lot when a pair is playing five-card majors, and the bidding continued:

South	West	North	East
—	—	—	1 ♣
1 ♢	2 ♣	3 ♢	No
No	No		

West led the queen of clubs and Covo, East, won with the ace. Deciding that if South held three clubs the defence would be limited to two hearts and two clubs, East switched to a low heart at trick two. West won and returned a heart. After cashing the jack and ace Covo played a fourth round. South ruffed with the queen of diamonds and so lost a trump trick, to go one down.

Covo and Paladino were treated as almost a reserve pair by the French captain. That system never works well, in my experience. In a long event like the European you have to fire on all cylinders.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope

ARIES — 21 March-19 April

An excellent week for self-improvement projects. Others are anxious to hear your ideas. Investments and business ventures are in the spotlight. You make a good impression on an influential person. Financial help comes from an unusual sources. Intimate relationships enjoy favourable influences. A loving couple sets the date! Financial transactions should go well during late afternoon. The pieces of a puzzle fall into place.

TAURUS — 20 April-20 May

A financial situation demands a more realistic approach. Concentration could be difficult due to frequent interruptions. Take care of routine tasks. If hosting a party at home this week, wear something elegant. You can expect to make significant progress with a new business project this week. Useful agreements can be finalized. Everything should go according to plan. Do not waste one minute of your valuable time.

GEMINI — 21 May-20 June.

Home improvements increase the value of your property, especially if you are putting it on the market. Take care of bills and important correspondence. A "go-ahead" signal could confuse you. Be cautious. A project gets off the ground that will eventually improve the bottom line. Welcome an opportunity to catch up on backlog of work. The emphasis is on improving your relations with your co-workers.

CANCER — 21 June-22 July

Those with artistic talent or special communication skills find new inspiration this week. Be aware of a loved one's special needs. A platonic relationship intensifies. Be careful not to promise too much too soon. Do not expect too much from others and you will be pleasantly surprised. Research yields information that could put you in line for a promotion. Influential person shows renewed interest in your ideas.

LEO — 23 July-22 August

Your best-laid plans could go up in smoke. A last-minute invitation makes this a memorable week. Be flexible. Welcome an opportunity to get some exercise — especially if you are usually deskbound. A special week for travel. Joint financial dealings are aided by those in power. Your spiritual and philosophical interests come to the fore. A close relationship blossoms. Share your hopes and dreams.

VIRGO — 23 August-22 September

It may not be easy to get what you really want this week. You feel like settling back and letting others do the work for a change. Try to delegate more household and family responsibilities. You could be singled out for preferential treatment this week. Your responsibilities are likely to increase, too. Others are depending on your leadership. Do not let them down. Stand up for your principles.

LIBRA — 23 September-22 October

Put career and business concerns aside this week and seek the company of friends and neighbours. A change of scenery is favoured. Do not make mountains out of molehills when discussing sensitive subjects. Do everything possible to build up your financial reserves. A fortunate week for handling money matters in which other people have an interest. Your self-confidence is at an all time high. Partner notices!

SCORPIO — 23 October-21 November

Your idealism comes to the fore during a morning hour. Sharing spiritual experience with a loved one brings you closer together. Confidential matters need to be discussed with others. Be discreet. This week's fortunes are linked with events. Young or old, single or married, you seem to be on the right track where your personal life is concerned. Keep secrets to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS — 22 November-21 December

Your creativity is at an all-time high. Conservations with close friends bring you delightful new insights. Your best relationship is with a long-time ally. Devote more time and effort to romance. Mate's or partner's impulsive behaviour could put a crimp in your budget. Make a greater effort to keep your business and personal lives separate. Some social events could prove too costly.

CAPRICORN — 22 December-19 January

Expect sudden shifts in opinion this week and do not try to force your views on others. You should be careful not to say too much in front of a child. Protect the innocent. Strike while you have the upper hand at work. Your associtès will give you their full support if you do not dilly-dally. Adopt a new businesslike approach to an old problem.

AQUARIUS — 20 January-18 February

You have a knack for doing the practical, resourceful and shrewd thing. Catch up on work you have long postponed. Hold court in your own home this week. Phone a last-minute invitation. Your diplomacy serves you well in both business and your personal relationship. A new project provides a wonderful outlet for your originality. Jealousy could harm a close alliance. Control your emotions.

PISCES — 19 February-20 March

An unexpected visit from an out-of-towner provides a welcome change from your usual routine. Plan to dine out with one or two close friends. Enjoy yourself without being extravagant. An influential person takes notice when you make an extra effort this week. Postpone starting new projects until you have completed all the old ones. Repay debts and favours at the earlier opportunity

THIS WEEK'S CHILD will be a wise old soul even at a tender age. He asks penetrating questions and draws some staggeringly insigtufl conclusions. Count on him to have a special interest in handicrafts. He will enjoy working with his hands. Tolerant and open-minded, this child will have friends from all walks of life. He makes a delightful travel companies, quickly adjusting to different climates and customs.

Star

Telephone: 664153/4, 667177/8/9
Telex: 21392 MEDIA JO

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th *centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman.* Opening hours: 90.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. (Fri*days and official hilidays 10.00 a.m. to* 4.00 p.m.) Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century *orientalist artists. Muntazah,* Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays Tel. 630128.

Martyr's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916 Sports City. Amman. Opening hours 9.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Films

The **American Centre** is featuring the film 'True Confessions' starring Robert de Niro and Rober Duvall. On 2, 6, and 9 April at 7pm

Exhibitions

The **Art Gallery** in the International Hotel presents an exhibition of pressed flowers by Rita Ghul. Until 9 April

Plays

Samuel Beckett's 'Fin de Partie' (Endgame) will be presented by the French Cultural Centre. On Thrusday 9 April at 8:30 at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The American Centre also presents a college of classic American plays in one theatre piece. On Saturday 4 April at 8 pm at the Royal Cultural Centre.

On 5 April the American Centre is presenting a theatre piece entitled 'The Gin Game' at 8 pm at the RCC. Tickets are JD 3.

The **Petra Bank Art Gallery** presents an art exhibition by 17 Arab artisits. Until 9 April

Lecture

On Monday 6 April at 7:30 pm the **British Council** presents a lecture by Doug Scott who will give a talk with slides on Mountain Climbing.

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624690.

***Church of the Annunciation** (Roman* Catholic Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5.30 p.m. Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 678906.

***Armenian Catholic Church** Ashrafieh,* Tel. 771331.

Armenina Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel 771751.

Amman *International Church* Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295.

Algeria	213
Aregentina	54
Buenos Aires	1
Australia	61
Adelaide	8
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Melbourne	3
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Belgium	32
Antwerp	3
Brussels	2
Brazil	55
Rio de Janeiro	21
Brazilia	61
Bulgaria	359
Sofia	2
Canada	1
Ottawa	613
Chile	56
Santiago	2
Cyprus	357
Nicosia	21
Czechoslovakia	42
Prague	2
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Quito	2
Egypt	20
Cairo	2
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Dublin	1
Cork	21
Finland	358
Helsinki	90
France	33
Paris	1
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Bonn	288
Greece	30
Athens/Piraeus	1
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Banglore	812
New Delhi	11
Bombay	22

And all cities with area codes beginning with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

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Italy	39
Rome	6
Iraq	964
Baghdad	1
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Tokyo	3
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Nairobi	2
Kuwait	965
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Seoul	2
Libya	218
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Malaysia	60
Kuala Lumpur	3
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Morocco	212
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Rabat	7
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Amsterdam	20
Rotterdam	10
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Taiz	4
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Lagos	1
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Oslo	2
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Karachi	21
Lahore	42
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Peru	51
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Philippines	63
Manila	2
Poland	48
Warsaw	22
Qatar	974
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Al-Madina	4
Dammam	3
Jeddah	2
Mecca	2
Riyadh	1
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Colombo	1
Sudan	249
Khartoum	11
Sweden	46
Stockholm	8
Syria	963
Damascus	11
Taiwan	886
Taipei	2
Thailand	66
Bangkok	2
Tunisia	216
Tunis	1
Turkey	40
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Istanbul	1
UAE	971
Abu Dhabi	2
Ajman	6
Al Ain	3
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Venezuela	58
Caracas	2
Yugoslavia	38
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Arab Republic of Yemen	642381/2
Australian	673246/7
Austrian	644635
Austrian Embassy/ commercial section	674750/674852
Bahraini	664148
Belgian	675683
Brazilian	642169/642183
Bulgarian	638385
Canadian	666124
Chadian	642736
Chilian	661336
Cyprus Honorary Consulate	642683
Czechoslovakian	665105/6
Danish Consulate General	622324
Finish Consulate (Visas)	623443
French	641273/4
German	641351
German D.R.	819351/2
Greek	672331
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Iraqi	639331/2
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British Airways	641430
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Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	662141/678321
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Iberia	637827/644036
Iraqi Airways	628598/628598
Japan Air Lines	630879
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Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
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Royal Culture Centre Tel.	661026/7
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Amman

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Intercontinental	641361
Ambassador	665186
Commodore	665181
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Queen Alia Intl. Airport	(08)53330/60

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Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	624362
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Kada	315459
Kada	613554
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Rabbit Amman	639851
Al-Rimal	667439
Al-Said	771707
Al-Samer	625787/621471
Satellite	604904
Star	671931
Tiger	673312
Trust	665121/9
Trust	674105
Al-Waha	644642/644908
Abu Dagga	670498
Amin Jarrar (Avis)	666317
Amman	641350
Arabian	08/51021-51071
Avis-Jarrar	09/802210
	673312
Budget	604239
Budget	669970
De'as	660801
Dirani	601360/60
Europcar	601380
Europcar	815071
Europcar	639197
Europcar	674100
General Services	660907
Gulf	669376/669336
Inter Rent	

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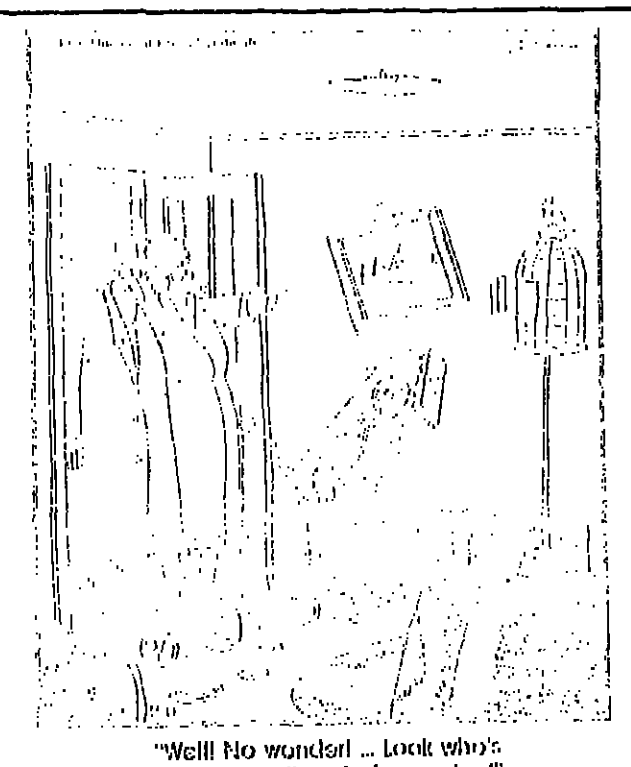
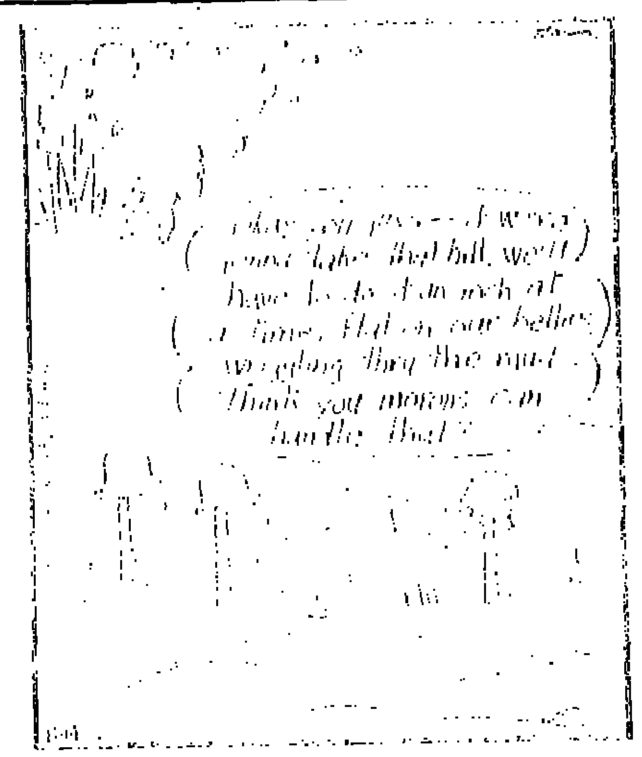
Whale fitness classes

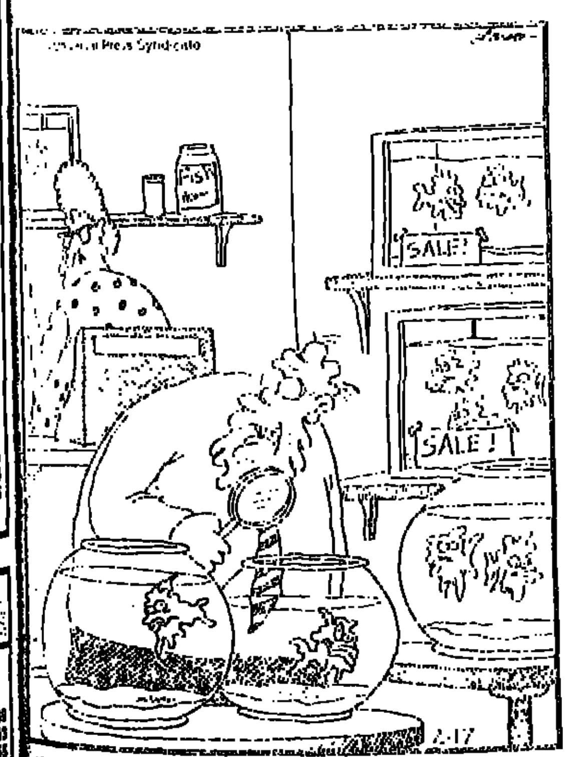


"Well! No wonder! ... Look who's been loose the whole evening!"

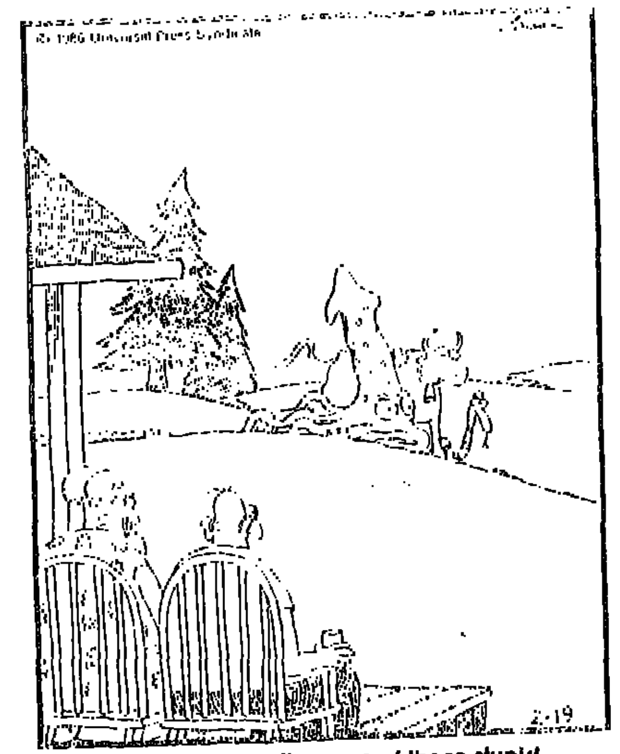


The Snakes of War

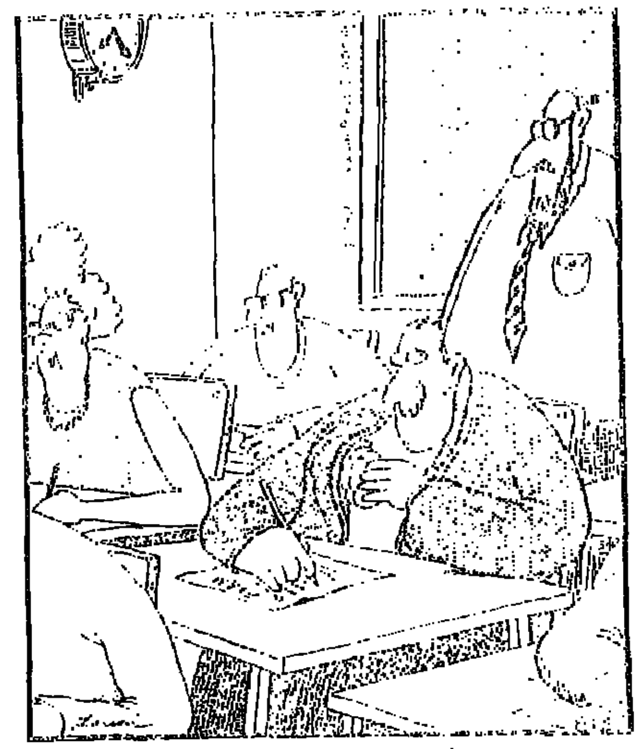
THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON



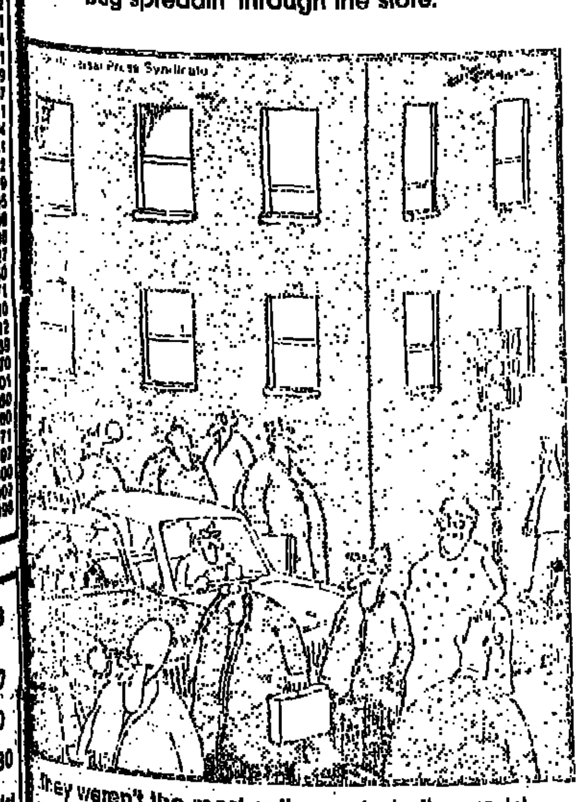
"Louise! C'mon over here. ... I think we got some bug spreadin' through the store."



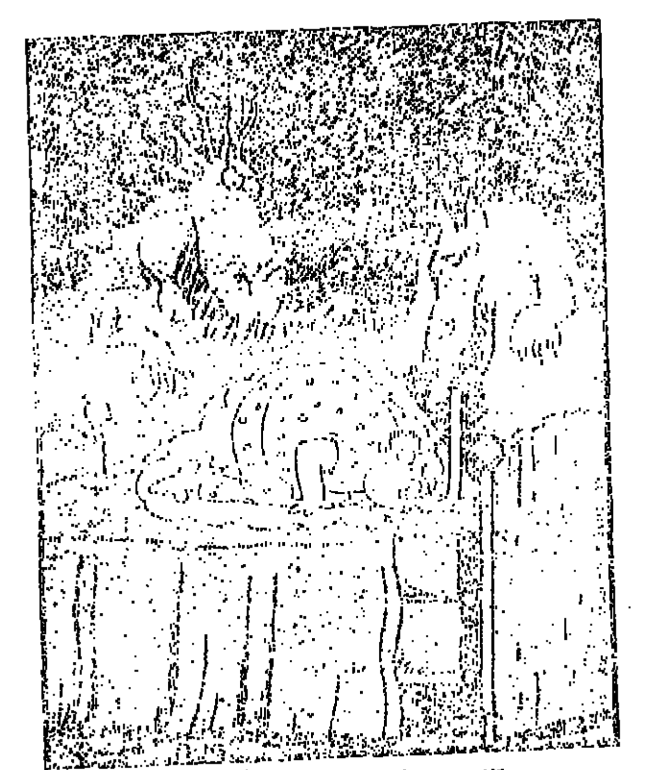
"Looks like another one of those stupid 'Incredible Journey' things."



Midway through the exam, Allen pulls out a bigger brain.



They weren't the most evil people in the world — nor the best. They were the Village of the Darned.



The monster snorkel: Allows your child to breathe comfortably without exposing vulnerable parts to an attack.

"For heaven's sake, Roger — stop dragging that one leg."